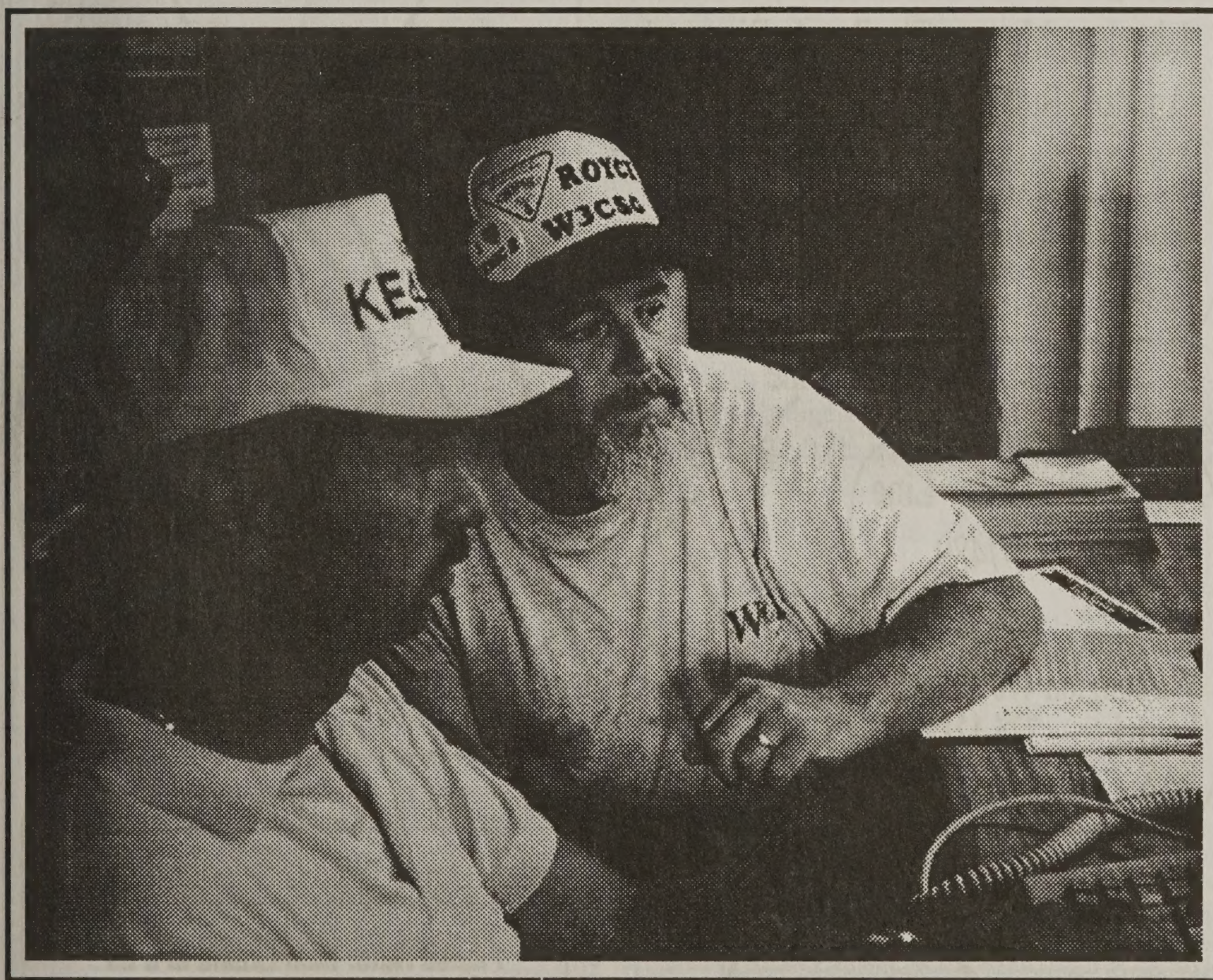




The Official Journal of the Foundation For Amateur Radio, Inc.

SEPTEMBER 1995



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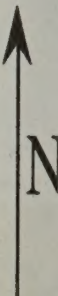
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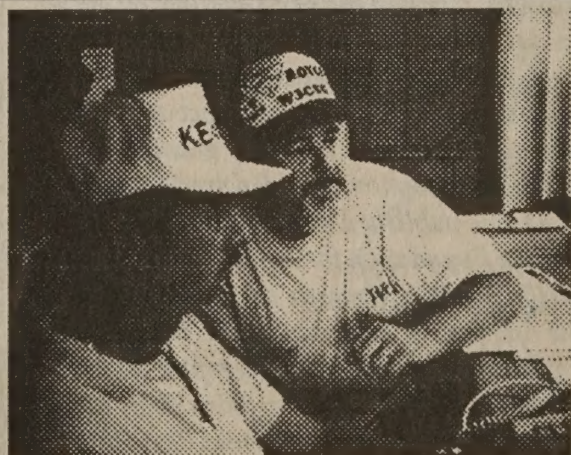
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Regional Hamfests and Other Events

Sept. 2/3	39th Annual Hamfest, Shelby, NC
Sept. 9	Radio Association of Erie Hamfest, Erie, PA
Sept. 10	Butler County ARA Hamfest, Butler, PA
Sept. 10	F.A.R. FEST, Gaithersburg, MD (301) 490-3188
Sept. 16	Buffalo Hamfest, Hamburg, NY
Sept. 16	Fallfest, South Boston, VA
Sept. 16	ARRL Westion NY Section Convention, Hamburg, NY
Sept. 17	South Jersey Radio Association, Pennsauken, NJ
Sept. 23	Central Atlantic ATV Network, York, PA
Sept. 23/24	Virginia Beach Hamfest & Computer Fair, VA Beach, VA
Sept. 23/24	York Hamfest, York, PA
Sept. 24	AMSAT bi-annual meeting and GSFC open house
Sept. 30	ARA of the Southern Tier, Horseheads, NY
Sept. 30	Pack Rats VHF Conference, Horsham, PA
October 1	Pack Rats - Warrington, PA
October 15	Columbia Amateur Radio Association, West Friendship, MD
October 21	Ft. Venango Mike & Key, Franklin, PA
October 22	RF Hill Amateur Radio Club, Sellersville, PA
October 29	Mason-Dixon Computer & Hamfest, Westminster, MD
October 29	Penn Wireless Association, Newton, PA
November 11	Central PA Repeater Association, Hershey, PA
November 19	WACOM, Washington, PA



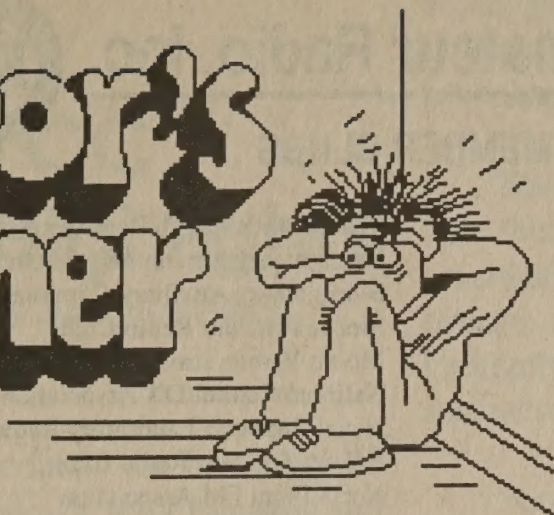
(photo by Laura Stewart, KE4QJT)

On The Cover

Pictured on this month's cover of *Auto Call*, are Bo Tanner KE4SQZ (left) and Royce Crocker W3CSG (right) of the Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Club operating the packet station at Field Day '95. Bo and Royce were just two of the thousands of area hams who participated in this year's Field Day. Shenandoah Valley ARC used solar panels and operated all stations on emergency power.

Editor's Corner

By John Queen
KAØSEY



In last month's editorial, I pondered on the *meaning* of "ham" - - (the amateur type, not the swine variety). Well, needless to say, during the past month, I've received several submissions exploring the *origin* of "ham".

So this month I've decided to devote this space to several very different, but plausible explanations of how the term "ham" originated. So without further undo delay, I present to you for your enlightenment and edification the origin of the term "ham" as used in our hobby. By the way, that's another interesting question: is ham radio a 'hobby', a 'service', a 'pastime', or a 'way of life'? (Oops, sorry for the further undo delay)....

Why are we called "Hams"?

Submitted by Robert G. Lynch, WS3B

"Have you ever wondered why we radio amateurs are called "Hams?" well, it goes like this—the word Ham was applied in 1908 and was the call letters of one of the first amateur wireless stations operated by some members of the Harvard Radio Club. They were Albert S. Hyman, Bob Almy and Peggie Murray. At first, they called their station Hyman-Almy-Murray. Tapping out such a long name in code soon called for revision and they changed it to HY-AL-MU, using the first two letters of each name.

"Early in 1909, some confusion resulted between signals from amateur wireless HYALMU and a Mexican ship named HYALMO, so they

decided to use only the first letter of each name and the call became HAM.

"In the early pioneer unregulated days of radio, amateur operators picked their own frequency and call letters. Then, as now, some amateurs had better signals than some commercial stations. The resulting interference finally came to the attention of the congressional committees in Washington and they gave much time to propose legislation designed to critically limit amateur activity.

"In 1911, Albert Hyman chose the controversial Wireless Regulation Bill as the topic for his thesis at Harvard. His instructor insisted that a copy be sent to Senator David I. Walsh, a member of one of the committees hearing the bill. The Senator was so impressed that he sent for Hyman to appear before the committee. He was put on the stand and described how the little amateur station was built. He almost cried when he told the crowded committee room that if the bill went through, they would have to close down the station because they could not afford the license fees and all of the other requirements which were set up in the bill.

"The debate started and the little station HAM became a symbol of all the little amateur station in the country crying out to be saved from the menace and greed of the big commercial stations who didn't want them around. Finally, the bill got to the floor of the Congress and every speaker talked about the poor little station "HAM."

Continued on page 23

The Foundation For Amateur Radio, Inc.



Washington, DC

MEMBER CLUBS

Adams County Amateur Radio Society	Mid-Atlantic DX & Repeater Assn.
Alexandria Radio Club	Montgomery Amateur Radio Club
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Capital City Amateur Radio Society	Northern Virginia Radio Club
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Friendship Amateur Radio Club	Vic Clark Chapter #91
Goddard Amateur Radio Club	Washington Chapter #23
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Herndon Repeater Group	St. Mary's County Amateur Radio Association
Historical Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club	Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Club
IBM Amateur Radio Club	Southern Maryland Amateur Radio Club
Johns Hopkins University APL ARC	Southern Patuxent Amateur Radio Club
Laurel Amateur Radio Club	Stafford Amateur Radio Assn.
Leisure World Amateur Radio Club	Sterling Park Amateur Radio Club
Loudoun Amateur Radio Group	Summit Amateur Radio Association
MD/DC MARS (Navy Marine) Association	Tri-County Amateur Radio Club
MADRAS	T-MARC, Middle Atlantic Repeater Council
Maryland Emergency Phone Net	Vienna Wireless Society
Maryland FM Association	Voice of America Amateur Radio Club
Maryland Mobileers Amateur Radio Club	Waldorf Repeater Support Club
Mercury Amateur Radio Assn., NE Area	Washington Adventist Amateur Radio Assn.
Metropolitan Communications Network	Washington Area Young Ladies ARC
Metrovision Amateur TV Club	Woodbridge Wireless, Inc.

NEXT FOUNDATION MEETING

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc. meets at 8: p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. **Visitors are always welcome!** The next meeting will be held September 13 at the Lee Center, Alexandria, Virginia. Take Capitol Beltway to Exit 1 (US 1 North). North to the second traffic light, left on Gibbon Street to Fayette. Left on Fayette to dead end at Lee Center Parking Lot. The meeting is conducted in the conference room near the main office of the center.

Talk-in on
146.55



FCC Highlights

By Jack Kelleher.
W4ZC

Last month we introduced the column with these words. "The remarks of John Johnston and William Cross at the FCC Forum are, in my opinion, an outstanding discussion of our Rules and how they get that way, and a very valuable set of guidelines to the amateur fraternity concerning our activities and responsibilities under those rules. Here is the first half of the text; we hope to have room to finish it in the next issue."

Last month we reproduced about half of the FCC presentation, stopping midway through the discussion on Digital Message Forwarding. We now go back to the beginning of that Section, for the sake of completeness. And having read the text even more closely, we are more sure than before that it is a down-to-earth, much needed, plain-language version of our new and updated rules.

DIGITAL MESSAGE FORWARDING

"Message forwarding has always been one of your mainstream operating activities. You have had CW and phone nets since the very beginning.

"A decade or so ago, digital technology made high volume high speed amateur systems practical. You linked your VHF and UHF stations to build easily accessible automatic message forwarding packet systems.

"Some of your systems, however, could not handle high volumes of messages because the model that Part 97 was based upon was that practiced by your phone and CW nets. Each operator in the relay chain screens every message

before passing it along. "These systems are very secure. Pirates and jokers simply can't take advantage of these systems. You make sure of that.

"They are also very slow. The rule making task, therefore, was to find an accommodation that would allow your message forwarding systems to operate at high speed without opening them to intolerable abuse. There were forty-two comments and two reply comments filed."

"Your systems are often unsupervised. They are easy targets for pirates and jokers. Even well-supervised commercial systems have difficulty at times with hackers. It takes a lot of enforcement resources to police an unsupervised high speed system. "It is important, therefore, that there be supervision of your systems. It must come from the amateur service community.

"It appeared that those who are in the best position to supervise are the control operators at the stations that accept messages from originating stations. The accommodation was based upon this approach. A new section was added to Part 97. First, it codifies your authority to participate in Ad Hoc message forwarding systems. The accommodation is that the control operator of the station originating the message is primarily accountable for any violation in the message.

"When you accept communications directly from the station that originated it, yours is the first forwarding station. As such, you have a responsibility. Before you forward those communications into the system, you must do two things. "Either you must authenticate the identity of the station from which you accepted the communications, or you must accept accountability for any rule violations in the communications.

"All of the other control operators in the system are not accountable for violative communications their stations retransmit inadvertently. They rely upon you. They expect you to make sure that no violative communication enters the system through

Continued next page

your station. They are, however, responsible for discontinuing such communications once they become aware of their presence.

"Another place that you have been anxious to build a new VHF high speed digital system is in the 219-220 MHz band. New rules went into effect this week' (the last week in April) 'that allow you access to this band on a secondary basis to the Automated Maritime Telecommunications System. There were 18 comments and 5 reply comments filed.

"Your station can now use this band only as a forwarding station in a fixed point-to-point digital message forwarding system, including intercity packet backbone networks. You must notify the League in writing of your station's specific geographic location at least 30 days prior to transmitting. The League will incorporate that information into a data base that is made available to the public.

"If your station is within 398 miles of an AMTS coast station, you must also notify the AMTS licensee in writing at least 30 days prior to transmitting. If your station is within 50 miles of an AMTS coast station, you must also obtain written approval from the AMTS licensee. You can obtain the locations of AMTS Coast Stations from the League or from Interactive Systems Inc. in Arlington, Virginia.

"The power limit is 50 watts PEP. The Data group of emissions types is authorized. Those are those nine types listed in Section 97.3(c) for telemetry, telecommand and computer communications.

"Two other accommodations that you wanted were adopted last week.' (April 1995) 'They allow automatic control of your HF station while it is transmitting a digital emission type. There were nineteen comments filed.

"When your station is transmitting on a shared HF band, it usually demands greater attention from

you than it does when it is transmitting on VHF and above where propagation is short range and far more reliable.

"The accommodations require, therefore, that your automatically controlled station must either be connected to another station that is under manual control or it must transmit within a designated subband. The new rules become effective July 1st." "Frequency Allocations.

"Congress is requiring that at least 200 MHz of Government spectrum be reallocated to the private sector. The first 50 MHz allocation included the 13 centimeter band. You have been sharing this band on a co-secondary basis with Government services.

"The 2390-2400 MHz segment was allocated to unlicensed low-power short-range wireless LANs (Local Area Networks). This means that the LAN must not interfere with your operations and (that) the users have no recourse against any interference that you happen to cause to them.

"The amateur service was also elevated to primary status in the 2,402-2,417 MHz segment. In this segment there are unlicensed cordless telephones operating under Part 15.

"As a frequency allocation matter, this Docket is being handled by the Office of Engineering and Technology."

The next portion of the presentation concerns the Vanity Callsign System, about which much has been written already. The most significant part of that portion was "If the decision is to revise the rules that were previously adopted,' (in December 1994, and announced in January 1995) 'the Form 610-V that is now at the Office of Management and Budget awaiting approval may have to be revised. Also, the specifications for the support software may have to be changed. In any event, the first gate will not open until rules are finalized, the FCC Form 610-V is available, and our

Continued next page

Licensing Division is prepared to begin processing the applications. We will continue your sequential call sign system for new hams and for those who do not want vanity call signs."

The remainder of the presentation deals with matters already well-publicized, so we will cease our quotes at this point. Besides, we need room for other interesting news.

FCC PLANS TO PRIVATIZE RFI HANDLING

Readers may remember our coverage of FCC's telephone RFI tests early in 1994. At that time the FCC said the transmitting stations most likely to cause telephone interference are citizens band, amateur and broadcast stations. Citizens band stations accounted for half the telephone interference cases, while amateur and broadcast stations caused the other half.

FCC's tests of RFI to telephones at that time indicated that telephones could be "interference-proofed", and identified manufacturers of such telephones.

The feature article in the August 1st issue of W5YI Report is "FCC Looking to Privatize RF Interference handling". That article is the basis for this report.

FCC receives approximately 30,000 complaints a year of RFI to home electronics equipment — and this may only be the tip of the iceberg. Due to the FCC's limited resources it is not possible for the FCC to resolve these problems, and it is now the Commission's policy not to further investigate them. Nevertheless, according to the Commission, RFI to home electronic equipment is a major problem in the U.S. which must be dealt with to ensure communications excellence for the general public.

The FCC is now looking into the possibility of having the private sector become involved in resolving these interference problems. The Tampa office of the FCC's Compliance and Information

Bureau is undertaking a pilot project to determine the feasibility of such a program. (Canada and Great Britain already have privatized RFI handling).

A fact-finding meeting took place in Tampa on July 19. Present were representatives from electronic repair organizations, broadcast media, manufacturers, appliance retailers, and radio operator training/testing organizations. The meeting was moderated by Ralph Barlow, Engineer-in-Charge of the FCC's Tampa field office. Barlow said that the new program was part of the administration's initiative of "reinventing government" and improving service to the American people.

In the FCC report on the telephone tests in 1994 it was noted that CB stations accounted for about half of the reported cases of telephone interference. I was surprised, therefore, to read in W5YI's account of the meeting that "Barlow said that the FCC will no longer investigate CB violations of any type and that citizens band radio rules will no longer be enforced." (Ed: One would hope that this does not mean that CB out-of-band operation is permitted *de facto* rather than *de jure*).

After a lengthy discussion Barlow closed the meeting by asking for proposals from those in attendance on how a pilot program of privatized resolution of interference to home electronic equipment might best be implemented.

WHITHER GOETH FCC?

Most of you have read of proposals to abolish the FCC, or modify its functions. Here's still another one. According to the W5YI Report, Jim Wills, N5HCT, the amateur who got "Vanity" callsigns enacted (??) has sent a very controversial proposal to Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Wills suggests that: "A quasi-government self-governing and self-funding tax-free

Continued on page 19



American Radio Relay League Report

By John Swafford,
W4HU

The ARRL Report provides a brief summary of information published in the ARRL LETTER and other reports. The LETTER provides timely news of interest to active Radio Amateurs. Any League member may subscribe to the ARRL LETTER.

HEALTH FORCES ARRL PRESIDENT'S RESIGNATION

On July 1, 1995, American Radio Relay League President George S. Wilson III, W4OYI, submitted his resignation from the office he held since January 1992. Mr Wilson, who suffered a stroke on February 11, is in a rehabilitation hospital in Evansville, Indiana.

Mr Wilson said that while he has made progress in rehabilitation, his medical condition prevents him from traveling and from devoting the energy required to perform the duties of the office for the remainder of his term, which would have expired at the January 1996 meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors. He expressed his appreciation to the members of the Board for the opportunity to serve.

"The League has my undying love and support," he said. In accordance with the ARRL by-laws, First Vice President Rodney J. Stafford, KB6ZV, has been performing the duties of president since Mr. Wilson became incapacitated in February. With Mr Wilson's resignation, Mr. Stafford became president for the remainder of the term. The next ARRL vice president in the order of succession, Jay A. Holladay, W6EJJ, becomes First Vice President.

Upon completion of the rehabilitation program in Evansville, Mr Wilson will return to his home in Owensboro, Kentucky.

ROD STAFFORD, KB6ZV, TAKES OVER AS LEAGUE PRESIDENT

Rodney J. Stafford, KB6ZV, of San Jose, California, became the 12th president of the American Radio Relay League on July 1, 1995, upon the resignation of George Wilson, W4OYI. He will complete the term of office that expires in January 1996.

Stafford, 52, has been first vice president of the ARRL since January 1992, and succeeded to the presidency from that position in accordance with the League's by-laws. He has performed the duties of president since February 11, 1995, when Mr Wilson was incapacitated by a stroke. Stafford previously served as a Vice President from 1990 to 1992, as Pacific Division director from 1986 to 1990, and as section manager of Santa Clara Valley from 1983 to 1986.

Rod is a life member of the League; his wife Patricia is N6KLI. He was appointed Municipal Court Judge in Santa Clara County by the Governor of California in 1990, and this year is serving as Presiding Judge. He is a graduate of the California State University at San Diego and the Santa Clara University School of Law, and was in private law practice from 1972 until 1988. He served as a Commissioner from 1988 to 1990.

Rod Stafford counts photography among his interests in addition to Amateur Radio.

Rod says: "Serving as George Wilson's first vice president was a great apprenticeship. George believes in team-building; getting people involved and keeping them informed. That the ARRL was able to keep functioning so seamlessly while George was incapacitated is a testimony to his own management style."

Continued next page

Succeeding Rod Stafford as First Vice President of the ARRL is Jay A. Holladay, W6EJJ, of Los Angeles, California. Jay became Vice Director of the Southwestern Division in 1975, advanced to director in 1978, and served in that capacity until being elevated to Vice President by the Board in 1984. He served as First Vice President from 1986 to 1990.

VEC CONFERENCE AGREES TO SEEK INCORPORATION

Ten volunteer examiner coordinators and 11 Federal Communications Commission staff members attended the annual national conference of VECs (NYVAC) in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, June 22 and 23. Here are highlights of the conference:

*Voted 9-to-0 with one abstention (ARRL/VEC) to incorporate the NCVEC in the state of Tennessee, to allow for tax-exempt status as a 501-C-3 organization. Assuming incorporation is accomplished before the next meeting (in July 1996), an NCVEC Corporation meeting will be held at that time. Prior to that, each VEC will be invited to appoint a director to the Corporation.

*Discussed concerns about funding, including the financial burden on smaller VECs in attending the conference. Fred Maia of the W5YI-VEC was named to chair a financial support committee to develop a projected yearly budget and then an actual financial support plan proposal.

*Noted that eight VECs are now able to make electronic submissions to the FCC.

*Discussed concerns about the security of transferring data on the Internet; the FCC may in the future have a system with a BBS for VECs.

*Voted 7-to-2 (the ARRL abstained) to comment, as a group, on two parts of an FCC notice of proposed rule making (WT Docket 95-57). One proposal would designate one volunteer examiner as a "session manager," and another concerns giving examination credit to former amateur

license holders. The vote of the group was to support the former but to oppose the later.

The VECs foresaw additional burdens on them of determining what license class a person had previously held and, possibly, what the class equates to under the current amateur license structure. The VECs also expressed concern that lapsed license holders could be out of touch both with new amateur rules as well as on-the-air operating issues.

The comment deadline on WT95-57 was July 14, 1995 (see July 1995 QST, page 82).

*The FCC's John Johnston reported that examination element activity was down by 5.2% for the first five months of 1995, compared with 1994, and that test sessions held declined 6.8%. The ARRL/VEC share for that period was 63%, up 3% over 1994. The W5YI-VEC was next, at 23.4%.

*FCC staff noted that in the year since the last NCVEC meeting actions affecting amateur licensing included:

The implementation of electronic filing;

License processing delays have been greatly reduced or eliminated;

Licenses are now granted based on data appearing in the FCC data base;

License data is available to the public;

Reorganization of Section 97.509 and a new Section 97.511 (examinee conduct);

"Tech Plus" was designated a license class;

The introduction of WT95-57.

*In answer to a question, the FCC said that "disability exemption" applications are not reviewed as a matter of course by the Commission, since there is no requirement that the FCC do so. The FCC relies on supporting paperwork filed with requests for such exemptions.

*Regarding whether VECs must charge for

Continued next page

Novice license exams, Johnston said no argument has been presented that the ARRL policy of not charging for such exams is wrong in any way.

*In response to difficulties in accessing the FCC database due to its size, the FCC said it would look into breaking up the database into smaller pieces, probably by USPS Zip Code, so that it could be more easily downloaded from the Internet.

*The FCC said it expects to begin issuing renewal notices in September for licenses that will expire in December. (The ARRL currently provides that service to its members free of charge).

W1AW CONTEST OPERATION NETS NEARLY 10K CONTACTS

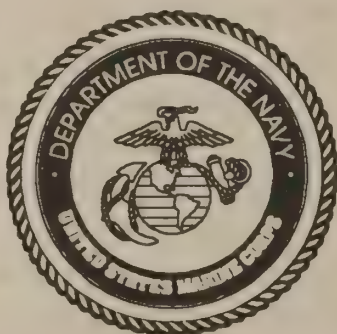
During the 24-hour IARU HF World Championship the weekend of July 8 and 9, nine operators put the ARRL Headquarters station, W1AW, on the air to the tune of 9,765 contacts with 6,689 different stations.

In an effort to put the call sign in as many logs

as possible (in an activity where IARU member-society headquarters stations are multipliers), the operation was conducted from the contest station of ARRL Vice President Tom Frenaye, K1KI, in northern Connecticut. Of the nine operators, eight are current or former HQ staff members.

The operators appreciate the support of everyone who gave them a contact. One station, N1FNN, worked them 12 times, on both phone and CW on 6 bands! Making the most contacts with W1AW outside the local area was WA8TWM in Ohio, who missed just one band-mode (160-meter SSB). Also impressive was W7YAQ in Oregon, who managed, along with K9SD in Illinois and HG95HQ, the headquarters station in Hungary, to make 10 QSOs!

In previous years, regular W1AW code practice and bulletins were canceled during this contest. This year, since the W1AW contest operation was conducted "off-site," the Headquarters station was able to conduct its usual on-the-air services as usual.



Needed: A Few Good Men and Women

(Like about 80) to provide medical/support communications via ham radio for the 25th annual . . .

Marine Corps Marathon

0530-1530 (+/-) On Sunday, October 22nd

To volunteer, contact the Marine Corps Marathon sign-up voice mail number at
(703) 741-3552

This Will Be The Biggest Marathon Ever, So Lots of Help Is Needed!!

Ham of the month

☆☆☆ Mary Ann Foble, N8ODZ ☆☆☆

Mary Ann Foble, N8ODZ, and her husband, Bill KB8MMD have become very well known around our area, the contiguous parts of Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, the District of Columbia and of course, West Virginia.

Since 1976 Mary Ann has lived in Magnolia, West Virginia - a very small secluded and remote mountain area with the nearest phone service being over seven miles away. To get telephone service back then would cost a whopping \$28,000. Bill worked in Montgomery County, MD and was home only on weekends. The youngest of their 4 children answered the armed forces in 1982 leaving Mary Ann alone at home. A friend of Bill's suggested that he look into amateur radio as a means of communicating with his wife. Bill obtained a license in 1989. Mary Ann followed in 1990.

This opened a whole new world for the Foble's, especially for Mary Ann. The other benefactor was the amateur community. It turns out that Mary Ann is a natural communicator. She quickly became familiar with hams all over the four state area, as she developed her abilities in ham radio.

Mary Ann is currently serving as a Net Control Operator on the Northern Virginia Traffic Net. She is Net Manager of the Shenandoah Valley Emergency Net, a regular Skywarn net controller, Net Control Operator for a WV ARES net, in addition to being the ARES Emergency Coordinator for her county. She conducts a weekly "Swap Net" with a repeater link up utilizing up to five repeaters in the four state area.

Mary Ann who is now a member of our club, the Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Club is always there, always ready to help and always very cordial. She is a constant reminder to us all what ham radio should be all about.

Mary Ann conceived the idea of a "Santa Net" and finally decided in 1993 to go for it. With the help of a few friends the first Santa Net of its kind in our area was initiated at 5:00 PM on December 24, 1993. With Mary Ann as net control, and "Santa" Bob Niemyer (W3MMC), the Santa Net was up and running through 10 repeaters linked all over VA, MD, PA, WV and DC, with volunteer amateurs standing by in the children's wards of area hospitals. It was a very heartwarming and emotional event. The Santa Net is surely now established as an annual event in the area.

While the "Santa Net" was primarily for children it was a great exercise for everyone. Many listened in on scanners. Two transient stations have now arranged to have "Santa Nets" in the New England states and one in Florida.

Congratulations Mary Ann Foble, N8ODZ. The Foundation for Amateur Radio nominates you as Ham of the Month for September 1995!!!!

Submitted by, Irvin F. Barb, KD4BHV.

[Editor's note: See last month's issue of Auto Call for nomination criteria and information or contact Tony Young, WA3YLO, FAR "Ham of the Month" Committee Chairman at (301) 262-1917].



Elmer's Corner

By Paul E. Wilkins,
AB4CY

COMMON DECENCY

Have you ever tried listening to a weak DX station only to have someone come on the air to tweak the rig and fool around getting the SWR down so he could fire up to give the DX a go himself? Maybe they think that the QRM will drown out the DX and everybody else will go away.

Or how about the non-call signing operators who swoosh back and forth over a frequency just to hear the musical notes produced by the 100 Hz synthesizer. Such folks used to be known as "Lids" and are sometimes referred to as "hot-dogs". Hiram P. Maxim, founder of ARRL, used to have something called the "Wouff Hong" to apply a little mayhem to those of us who were too important to observe common courtesy.

Then there is the no call sign crowd who arbitrarily pop up on somebody's repeater to do battles with what used to be known as profane, indecent and obscene language.

There are even almost regular cadres who show up to insult, disparage, and rant against morality, use racial epithets, personal degradation of each other, their XYL's, families or friends, and there are invitations to "meet me in the alley". And these folks aren't juveniles, even though they act like it. A good example of such goings on can be found on SSB at 14.312 MHz most any afternoon.

A common response to this kind of behavior is the temptation to jump in and hand out in kind to give 'em a dose of their own medicine. Don't, because instead of helping, this always seems to

egg them on rather than shut them up. One is tempted to wonder why the FCC isn't a little more active in this area, especially when they have repeatedly been furnished with taped recordings of endless hours of abuse. There have been a few cases that have been pursued but not enough to put a damper on this kind of activity at least on the ham bands.

There are some notorious "Shock Jock" talk show hosts who get away with similar activities on the public broadcast bands, so maybe this is what we have become.

More than once I've written a note to someone who I can identify who seems to me to be disregarding common decency. If enough of us expressed our displeasure, maybe it would have a calming effect. I'm not a prude and I'm not against free speech but I do favor a measure of self discipline to manage chaos.

I don't threaten or call a spade a spade. Just a simple "I monitored some of your transmissions today and I was very disappointed in the manner in which you treated fellow hams." And, I sign my name and call.

I guess there has always been the fringe (otherwise there would have been no need for the Wouff Hong seventy five years ago). There have been some recommended practices that have been around a long time. These were designed so that we could exist with a minimum of mutual interference.

First is the use of the minimum power required. Listen to what some of the QRP crowd can do with five watts, and then consider while you have a hundred, do you NEED a hundred. Somehow the Ego always goes for the S9 when S5 or less would do just as well.

How many of us use a dummy load for tune-up, my guess is, not very many, and we probably don't reduce power either when we do an on-the-

Continued on next page



Traffic Fun

By Geri Sweeny,
N4GHI

Aside from the great fellowship cultivated through traffic nets, there is the fun of watching the world go by, as if on TV. Checking into nets gives you the pleasure of sending your own messages, or those from family and friends. You also get to deliver messages for your area.

One of the best parts is becoming a liaison station and relaying messages from one net to another. For instance, you might check into the Eastern Area Net and pick up all traffic heading for the Fourth Region.

On the 4RN, you will deliver them to the liaisons from Virginia, Carolinas, Georgia, Florida, and Puerto Rico in the evening session. Messages comes in regular, informative, and fun.

July saw messages to and from the Special Olympics in New Haven, CT. In Olympians own words: "The World Games are out of this world. I am excited to be a part of it." "At the Special Olympics having a blast." "I love you. I race this afternoon six miles." "This is great. Athletes are well trained. We have made many memories;" and, going to the Olympians, "Good luck from your friends at Southside High School". "I am proud of you. Good luck from your teacher."

One gets a glimpse of what folks are doing - a peek at their lives. An announcement for the FAA annual reunion in Asheville was made as well as various wedding anniversary and birthday announcements (ARL forty six) sent. Folks traveling sent messages back to their families: From Florida to New York: "Having a great time in the pool. Going to Marineland on Saturday. Can't wait to see you. Love". Some messages are family chit chat: "Received your welcome letter and picture. Thank you for keeping in touch."

Many of these messages generate return messages. Thanks for your birthday message, etc. (ARL fifty three_____). Unfortunately, some return messages are ARL sixty seven_____. Your message number (fill in the blank) undeliverable because_____. From my experience, the greatest majority of undeliverable messages is due to faulty, and/or, no phone numbers. So many folks now days have unlisted numbers that we really need to put a number with the message.

The single most important part of relaying a message is to get the phone number right. A few ARL sixty seven's say there is no outlet. One unique ARL sixty seven, I recently relayed, filled in the blank with: "unforeseen delay". How the mind enjoys speculating on that one.

Of course, there was all the normal Fourth of July traffic. Holidays are a wonderful time to tell friends, 'thinking of you'. Handling traffic is truly a gateway to the world. Come join us.

Geri Sweeney, N4GHI
STM Virginia

Elmer's Corner, from page 14

air tune-up. QRL? was invented to ask "is this frequency in use?" so you don't roll over someone in the midst of a QSO with a long winded CQ. Band plans were invented to give an edge to those who do more than rag chew, but a lot of hams seem never to have heard of them, or if they have they don't respect them.

Lastly, have you noticed that most foreign hams call you Doctor? To them that is a mark of respect. What a contrast to some of our stateside on the air lack of respect. I think if we exhibit a little common decency in practicing our hobby, we stand a better chance of still being able to enjoy it well into the next century.

Public Information Coordinator



Maryland/DC Section

By Lenny Schachter, N3RPQ,
PIO and Assistant EC D.C. ARES.

D.C. ARES Assists in the National Concrete Canoe Competition

The District of Columbia Amateur Radio Emergency Service (D.C. ARES) provided emergency and tactical communication support for the 8th annual National Concrete Canoe Competition held Saturday, July 1, 1995.

The event was a competition between college civil engineering students representing several states who built and raced their canoes. This was the first competition of this type held in Washington, D.C. The George Washington University School of Engineering hosted the event held at the Thompson Boat Center on the Potomac river.

D.C. ARES operated two 2-meter nets in support of the event. The first net provided emergency communications support for radio operators in rescue boats on the river and an operator assigned to shadow lifeguards. The second net provided tactical support to race officials tallying canoe race results and a link to the race event coordinator.

During the competition, two canoes "swamped" and sank in the river. Canoe and radio operators in two rescue boats came to the aid of the canoe paddlers.

The competition ended somewhat early because of thunderstorms in the area. Also, D.C. ARES solicited NTS message traffic from event

attendees. Four messages were received and later passed on the MEPN to their destination.

Thanks to the following operators for their support: Paul, KQ3X, Lenny, N3RPQ, Tom, KA4CSG and his wife Marilyn, Ron, N3VPU, Carl, N3UBK, Cy, N3EPH, Bill, KC4VXH, Mike, N3PDK, Jim, M3CD, Willie, KE3SA, Clem, K3UAM, Bob, K3DBH, Quin, N3KGM, Tom, N3UBJ, and Roger, W3VAV

For further information on D.C. ARES, contact Paul Washington, KQ3X, Acting EC at (301)384-7812.

D.C. ARES Wishes Hani Raad, AA3EI, Bon Voyage

Hani Raad, AA3EI, ARES Emergency Coordinator for the District of Columbia, recently began a new career in cellular telephone communications. Hani is currently on assignment in Seoul, South Korea with officials from an international corporation.

During his time in Washington, Hani was a graduate electrical engineering student at the George Washington University and held several ARRL appointments.

A Lebanon native and an Extra Class operator, he was the D.C. ARES Emergency Coordinator, a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator, an Official Observer, and a Red Cross emergency response team volunteer.

Full of energy and enthusiasm, Hani structured the local ARES organization and provided training to new members. He also was a Vice President of the MADRAS club and scheduled many interesting guest speakers for meetings. Before he left the area, Hani worked many hours at the MADRAS club station during the recent ARRL Field Day exercise.

D.C. ARES and other local officials will miss Hani and wish him great success in his new career. 73 from your many friends.



Amateur Radio Newsline

Compiled by
John Queen
KAØSEY

ARRL BOARD MEETING

The A.R.R.L. Board of Directors met in its second session of 1995 on July 21st and 22. A number of major actions were taken that will affect the way that the league approaches and enters the 21st century.

The biggest decision out of this meeting involves the terms of Division Directors and Vice Directors serve. Board members voted to institute three year terms for both positions in each division. It's a decision Southeastern Division Director Frank Butler, W4RH voted against.

"The thinking was that if you don't have to have an election every three years, there is some savings in postage and the labor involved with an election. You can't argue with saving money but I felt and some members might feel the three year term is too long." Frank Butler, N4RH

The terms presently last for two years. The new three year terms will start using a transition schedule beginning in 1998. In other league news, changes were also made to the operating procedures of the A.R.R.L. Awards Committee and Advisory Committees. Membership of the Awards Committee was reduced to six and an ad hoc committee has been formed to review the terms of reference and operating methods of all Advisory Committees.

And the A.R.R.L. is getting into the RFI immunity testing of electronic gear. The Board directed that the staff create a plan, including a

budget, for the creation of standardized RFI immunity testing procedures for consumer electronics equipment.

In other news, the Board has declined to have the A.R.R.L. participate actively in the recently created corporation of volunteer examiner coordinators. On the other hand it has adopted a resolution thanking NASA for its continued support of the SAREX program.

And before adjourning, the Board of Directors expressed its gratitude to recently retired President George S. Wilson, W4OYI, for his many years of dedicated service to the league and to the Amateur Radio Service. The Board of Directors bestowed on George the title of A.R.R.L. President Emeritus. An honor that he truly deserves.

Look for a complete wrap up on the boards decisions in the September issue of Q.S.T. magazine.

GUNMAN KILLS THREE CALIFORNIA HAMS

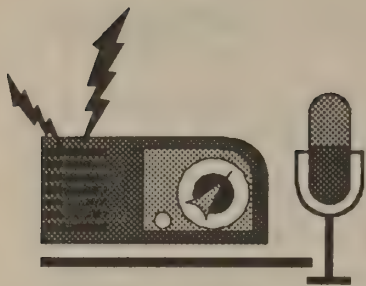
An allegedly disgruntled Los Angeles city employee went on a shooting rampage at a downtown office building on Wednesday July 19th, killing four of his supervisors, three of them licensed radio amateurs.

The suspect, identified by police as 42 year old Willie Woods, apparently believed he was about to be fired from his job as an installer of fire department radios.

The victims, all longtime employees of the city's Department of General Services, were identified as Anthony Gain, W6KFN; Neil Carpenter, KA6QIB; Marty Wakefield, N6BZ and non-ham James Walton.

One man died at the scene. Another was pronounced dead on arrival at the Los Angeles County U.S.C. Medical Center. Two others died at the hospital despite efforts to revive them.

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DX DX DX

By John Kanode,
N4MM

ARRL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MAKES ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES IN DXAC/ AWARD COMMITTEE OPERATIONS

At its recent July meeting, the ARRL Board of Directors has taken actions that will result in changes in operating procedures for the DXAC and the Awards Committee. These changes came about, for the most part, due to the controversy over the DXAC votes on Pratas Island and Scarborough Reef. Several small changes were already under consideration and just happened to come to a vote at the same time this controversy broke out.

The Board voted to task an Ad-Hoc committee to formulate and recommend a uniform policy relative to the use of E-mail by ARRL Advisory Committees. The Membership Services Committee made three motions that dealt with the ARRL Awards Committee Standard Operating Procedures. One dealt with how recommendations are handled, the second added a responsibility for the Board Liaisons and the third reduced the size of the ARRL Awards Committee from eight to six members. I received an MCI E-mail yesterday advising all ARRL Directors that this has been done and the new six person committee is functional. The members of the ARRL Awards Committee are: K8CH, Chairman; K5FUV, DXCC Manager; KR1R, Contest Manager; N6BV; NX1L and KBIHY.

The most important motion the board passed in regards to this situation was the appointment of a Ad-Hoc Committee to revise the fundamental documents of Advisory Committees. This committee will revise the Terms of Reference, Rules and Regulations Concerning Advisory Committees, Members Handbooks, Operations

Outlines and any other documents necessary to provide consistency and consonance with the Articles of Association and By-Laws. The ARRL President, Rod Stafford, KB6ZV will make appointments to this committee soon.

The Membership Services Committee met before the board meeting and several items, including the Pratas and Scarborough Reef situation were discussed and actions taken. There was a lot of interest in these issues. Attendance at this meeting was 29, which included all directors. It was a five hour meeting. The first issue was a request from the DXCC Desk that electronic DXCC submissions be put on hold until the in house submission software is in place. It was also recommended that field checking of endorsements be started January 1, 1996. The committee approved these requests.

A long discussion of DXCC/DXAC issues then took place, the MSC, with all 15 Board members present, asked the Awards Committee Chair and the DXAC Board Liaison to convey to the DXAC Chair that it is the sense of the MSC that the DXAC, taking the new and significant information into account, revote Pratas immediately, waiving the two year rule.

After extensive discussion, it was the consensus of the committee that the last paragraph of the "ARRL Awards Committee History" does NOT reflect the intent of the ARRL Board of Directors. It was the intention of the ARRL Board that the DXAC be consulted on the issue of any change in the countries list, it was not the intent that before a country could be considered by the ARRL Awards Committee, it must first be endorsed by the DXAC. It was voted to delete this paragraph from the document.

The result of all this is that the DXAC will be requested to revote Pratas now and the ARRL Awards Committee will review Scarborough and vote on it, if the vote is positive, a compromise will try to be worked out, if none is reached, the

Continued next page

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issue will be referred to the MSC which will make a recommendation to the full ARRL Board.

UPCOMING DX CONTESTS

Hiram P. Maxim Memorial Birthday Celebration	Sept. 2-10
LZ DX Contest	Sept. 2-3
All Asian DX Contest, Phone	Sept. 2-3
Radio Club Panama XXIV Anniversary Contest	Sept. 3
Scandinavian Activity Day, CW	Sept. 16-17
CQ WW RTTY Contest	Sept. 23-24

The Heard Island operation scheduled for this winter appears to be on track. The latest word is that they plan to leave Fremantle on November 1, 1995. More as this event gets closer.

The Mount Athos DXpedition never took place. Nothing else has been heard from its organizers.

In light of proper documentation, the DXCC has added North Korea to the DXCC List. There is an operation scheduled from there sometime this early Fall. More as info is available.

The Libya DXpedition (5A1A) took place as advertised, they were quite active and most anyone who wanted to work them, did. They left on July 25 and according to reports, had made over 30,000 QSO's. Everyone hopes they have the proper documentation so that it will be a valid operation and count for DXCC.

Old Logs for DX Operations: Bob Schenck, N2OO is concerned about "old" logs being discarded by QSL Managers or operators for old operations. He offers to take over any DX logs that are "closed" or about to be trashed. He offers to act as QSL Manager for any current stations/DXpeditions seeking assistance.

FCC Highlights, from page 9

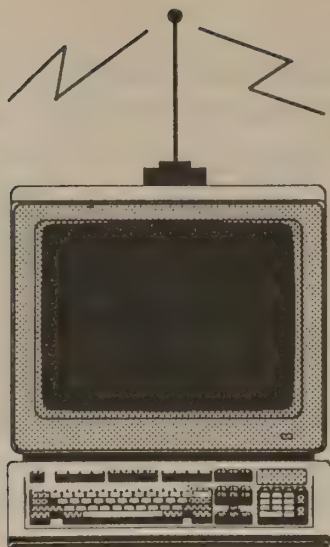
organization could be created to handle all the duties of the FCC pertaining to amateur and commercial licensing with each VEC holding one seat and having one vote on the board. One member from the amateur radio community at large and one member from the commercial licensed operators at large could be appointed by the Telecommunications Sub-Committee for a specified term, say 6 years, to sit on the board with full and equal voting authority as other board members. The Sub-Committee would maintain oversight jurisdiction.

Wills recommends that the Amateur Service and commercial radio licensing be removed from the FCC and placed under the auspices of the National Volunteer Examination Coordinators along with all power of enforcement and responsibility to govern and control amateur radio activities (sic) and commercial radio licensing.

The new emerging organization would be

called the National Radio Licensing Authority (NRLA) and would be supported by fee collection for services rendered. Wills asks that "....all pertinent assets, including hardware and software, rules and historical files be transferred to the NRLA. . . . All NRLA rulings would carry the full authority of the U.S. Government. All enforcement problems that the NRLA could not handle would be turned over to the Justice Department for implementation. . . . By taking this action, the FCC could devote its full time efforts and resources to whatever it does".

(Ed. — In my opinion this proposal would carry privatization too far. According to the "FCC Rule Book" (ARRL; 8th edition, 1989), the basis for the FCC's regulations is found in treaties, international agreements and statutes that provide for the allocation of frequencies and that place conditions on how the frequencies are to be used. Separating licensing — and amateur activities — from rule-making is like putting a handle on one cogwheel of a clock.)



The Life and Times of a Packet Sysop

By Bill Howard
WB3V

Every time I went down the cellar it was the same thing. It was glaring at me! I just new it. The blue and white box on the cellar shelf contained an MFJ TNC that I had bought about a year ago. It sat there. It waited. It didn't say anything. OK! OK! After all, I did buy it—maybe it's time to try it out. An old Wilson HT, a rubber duck antenna and the latest in home computer technology, a Commodore 64, became my first so-called packet station."

Holy mackerel! Look at all the commands in this TNC! Oh well, things seemed to go together OK. The HT was a little flaky until I learned that the TNC would only respond at a certain volume setting. There it was, traffic flowing across the screen, with callsigns like W3GXT-5/BALTO, W3IWI and W3ZH. There is always a certain excitement surrounding the first contact on a new mode.

That first CW contact in 1959, wow! Even though the guy was only about three blocks away it was absolutely amazing that my little homemade one-tube transmitter worked. The first 2-meter AM voice contact with a borrowed Gonset Communicator, wow! I joined a nightly two-meter net and eventually became a net-control; this was living. Then it came, the Heathkit DX-40 I'd been waiting for. Just think, almost 75 watts of AM power. The world is mine! California on 10-meters, no sweat. Hmm, SSB—well it could be fun.

I was in the Navy now and traveling the world. Operating RTTY, SSB and CW from Florida, Alaska, Maryland, Germany, Guam and Hawaii. While I was in Maryland there was the first satellite contact, and two-meter FM repeaters were starting to spring up everywhere.

The guys at the Fort Meade, MD club helped me redesign and build that HF receiver from the 1976 Amateur Radio Handbook. You know, the one with the digital readout. Then in Guam I built my first repeater autopatch using those quirky 567 phase locked loops. Guam shortly thereafter welcomed their first 2-meter autopatch repeater.

Now this was around 1978 and I'm sure that someone was dreaming of a cellular phone network using things like these little HTs with touch-tone pads, but there were other interesting things to do. Amateur radio had provided a wealth of opportunity, exposure and friends through the years.

When it all started, I was thirteen years old with a new amateur radio license. Now here I was, a father of three still having fun and dabbling in packet radio. The year was 1986 or so. I was honored that the ARRL president assigned me to an Ad Hoc committee to help coordinate amateur radio spread spectrum interoperability. Now spread spectrum was fun! The AMRAD guys in Virginia were cranking up HTs as frequency hoppers, using - yes you guessed it, Commodore 64's to generate the hopping sequence.

Well shortly after that, the FCC changed the rules on amateur radio use of spread spectrum, taking ALL the fun out of it. The Virginia gang wandered aimlessly for a few clock cycles until discovering a cheap source of single board computers and a technique for using some old Bell modems to send packets of data over the air. Next, there was a newly developed digital protocol called AX.25 for packet radio. The FCC would absolutely have a cow with this stuff after what they did to spread-spectrum, but amazingly they didn't. Well,

Continued next page

they fussed around for a while but finally approved this new mode.

With the TNC resurrected from the cellar, I was looking at packet radio traffic through a box I didn't even have to build. What was this world coming to? By this time, some of the local packet pioneers were running PBBS's. There was Tom W3IWI, John N4QQ, the folks at ARINC with W3ZH and Dick K3AKK with the DCA node stack, John W3GXT's node stack in Baltimore and Bob WB4APR with his NAVY nodes everywhere.

There was increasing key-board to key-board traffic, but the real beauty of packet radio and PBBS's was that you didn't have to be there to exchange messages. You could simply leave mail on a PBBS and later, at your convenience, check back in to see if there was a response. Now this was really interesting! Not to mention the fact that a variety of bulletins were available whenever you wanted. Just imagine what it would be like to run your own PBBS. The bug had bitten once again.

The box from Jameco had no sooner arrived, than my son Rob N3HFI and I were assembling our first PC clone computer. The clone was destined to become the heart of my K1LNJ PBBS in Severn, MD. With help from two nearby Sysops, Doug N2GTE and George KA3DXX, I was up and running with WA7MBL software, two TNCs, a 2-meter and a 440 rig. The antenna had grown from a rubber duck to an isopole on 2 and a 48-element J beam on 440. The fun was beginning as new users connected and actually started using the PBBS to exchange mail and read bulletins. There was almost an overwhelming temptation to interrupt them for some chatting, but I watched and tweaked and grew the system.

Soon there was a 220 port and some users would religiously download each and every bulletin I could get my hands on. Doug N2GTE had developed a new PBBS software package called the GTE Packet Message Switch. This was a nice improvement since multiple users could now connect to the PBBS. I became one of the Beta testers for Doug's software and continued running

later release versions up until 1995. Bulletins were so much in demand that Doug developed a program called Leach, that allowed us to capture packet bulletins, normally passed on HF, without connecting to another station. This helped satiate the users increasing thirst for a variety of bulletins.

The number of users grew rapidly and occasionally I would get a note from someone who agonized over their difficulty getting into the PBBS with an HT and rubber duck. Having been there, I understood the growing pains. They would soon upgrade their antenna and then their radio for better connections. Amateur radio is like that. You are continually confronting the conflict of technology and limited budgets. Tenacity gets us through. You don't last long if you give up too easily. There is always an inexpensive way to make use of the new developments and there is much to learn along the way.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the users, the Sysops and all aspects of packet radio. Sure there have been some tiffs, rows and bumps in the night. An FCC field engineer in Virginia jumped in and thanked some unfortunate Sysops for their efforts, by citing them because of an objectionable message. Therein began the end of packet radio growth and development as I had known it. Some of the pioneers left soon thereafter. The censors were everywhere. Forwarding of mail became iffy and some bulletins just simply disappeared at the whim of someone's righteous indignation. There even seemed to be a contest of who could be more righteously indignant. This coincided with my first real immersion in the political side of amateur radio. As it turns out this opened up yet another door in the "Hotel California" of amateur radio.

I became the ARRL Section Manager for Maryland/DC in 1993. I no longer spend countless hours with a soldering iron in hand laboring over the next gadget. I haven't lost the desire, but I did find something even better. I now spend more time getting out and talking to other hams face-to-face

Continued next page

at club meetings and hamfests. I try to help them organize and grow. I try to help them understand that growth and organization are key to sustaining the future of amateur radio. I believe this is a worthwhile goal.

I also try to help them understand that our government regulatory agencies aren't necessarily their friend, but they aren't necessarily their enemy either. They are more like lawyers and they should be treated accordingly, by speaking a language they understand with an organized and objective approach.

The message revolves around encouragement to go out and do something for others and to help them grow through amateur radio. I salute all those, too numerous to mention, who have contributed their time and effort to help others learn, gain insight, grow and discover. The WB3V PBBS is closing in July 1995 but other doors are opening.

The PBBS started in Severn, MD. with the callsign/alias K1LNU/BWIBBS. It's callsign changed with mine to WB3V a few years later. Then Doug N2GTE was kind enough to run the PBBS from his house, on Fort Meade, when I moved to Odenton. A phone port had been added and files were being up and downloaded along with the mail and bulletins. During the PBBS's heyday,

Doug and Al KJ3E collaborated on developing an NTS server that proved very popular.

The PBBS was then moved to Columbia where it remained until July 21, 1995. This marked eight years of PBBS operation. During it's lifetime, there were many who helped on a routine basis: KO4A, WA3SCW, NB3P, WA3FYZ and NU3D acted as very capable remote Sysops. However, the costs in time and money along with the abundance of surrounding PBBS's convinced me that it was time to move on.

In the life and times of a packet Sysop it was for the most part fun and rewarding. They say that a retired Section Manager trades in their red badge for a badge of black and blue. I wonder what happens to a retired Sysop?

I know there's still much to be done and discovered. I plan to put even more effort into the Section Manager responsibilities, and to experiment with some of the HF digital modes for a while. In the mean time, I would like to ask for your help. Ask yourself, if amateur radio were against the law, would there be enough evidence to convict you? If not, how can you help, what can you do, who do you call? My number is (410) 551-6775.

73 - Bill, WB3V

The Foundation For Amateur Radio, Inc.



Washington, DC

The FOUNDATION FOR AMATEUR RADIO, INC. Is pleased to announce the 1995 winners for the fifty five (55) scholarships which it administers.. Names and photographs of each recipient for individual awards will appear in the November issue of *Auto Call*.

These scholarships were open to all licensed Radio Amateurs meeting the qualifications and residence requirements of the various sponsors. The FOUNDATION is a non-profit organization incorporated in the District of Columbia, representing more than seventy-five clubs in Maryland, the District of Columbia and Northern Virginia. It is devoted exclusively to the scientific, literary and educational pursuits that advance the purposes of the Amateur Radio Service. Announcement of our 1996 awards will appear in the March or April issues of the major Amateur Radio publications and selected radio club newsletters.

"That's how it all started. You will find the whole story in the Congressional Record. Nationwide publicity associated station HAM with amateurs. From that day to this and probably to the end of time, in radio, an amateur is a HAM. (Reprint from "Mike and Key" and "Florida Skip").

"Who Put the 'Ham' in Ham Radio?"
Submitted by Al Brown, WA3FYZ

"In the Editor's Corner of the August, 1995 issue of *Auto Call*, John Queen explored the meaning of the term "ham" when talking about radio.

"John did an excellent job of reminding us that ham radio has a variety of meanings depending on what each individual thinks it means. It all depends on what your interests are; ragchew, DX, ATV, phone, CW, etc. But John's article also made me think along another tangent. That is, what was the origin of the term "ham" radio.

"This topic has been discussed, over the years in various publications, and there are two "legends" that make the most sense to me. I would like to pass those on.

"The first is that way back in the early 20th Century, the phrase "amateur radio" was shortened to "am radio." When the American public and journalists heard and used the term "am radio," they thought, and wrote of it, as the King's English for "ham" radio. This is because the British drop the "h" sound on words that begin with the letter "h." From this, the term "ham radio" took root.

"The second legend is one that everyone in the Antietam Radio Association in Hagerstown, MD knows. It goes back to the days of Hiram Percy Maxim, the original holder of the call sign 'W1AW' and founder of the ARRL.

"Maxim is buried in Hagerstown and there was a big celebration marking his 125th birthday last year. Maybe it is appropriate that this article is

being published in this issue of *Auto Call*, since September 2nd is Hiram Percy Maxim's birth date.

"As the Hagerstown legend goes, Hiram Percy Maxim and his son, Hamilton, were very active in amateur radio. Hiram called his son "Ham" on the air and used the term "Ham's radio" or "radio contacts with 'Ham(s)'" when he spoke about amateur radio to the media and the public. Hence, the term "ham" radio stuck as being associated with amateur radio and has been used to this day.

"Of course, there are other stories of how we became to be known as hams. But we, in Hagerstown, prefer the Hiram Percy Maxim story. Regardless of the origin of the term "ham," I think John Queen summed it all up best when he wrote, "Ham means what you want it to mean. And that's the beauty of it...[It is] your personal expression of electronic communication."

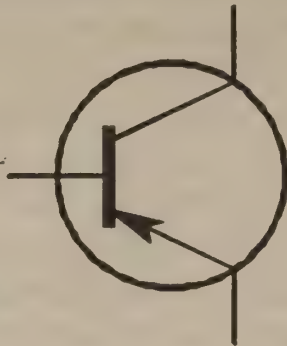
Well folks, there you have it -- the origin of "ham" in its various configurations. Using my editorial prerogative, I've read each of these stories very carefully and have drawn my own conclusion that all three legends are, in fact, correct.

You see, Al is correct in his statement that Hiram did indeed refer to his son as "Ham" when talking about amateur radio. But what wasn't told was that Hiram often talked to his son on 2 meters (simplex mode I believe) whenever possible to prevent interference with AM broadcast stations and criticism from congressional committees.

Of course, Bob is also correct in his assessment that the early ham station HYALMU was confused with the Mexican ship called the HYALMO. In fact, years later as amateur radio grew in popularity, people all but forgot about the Mexican ship. From this came the common expression (translated from King's English), "Don't forget the ALAMO".

And that's the truth. Pppphhhhh....

73's, de KAØSEY, John



Amateur Radio Training Classes

John Forrest WZ4A
6111 Burnett St., Alexandria, VA 22310
(703)971-3905

Please send announcements for training classes and club training contacts to WZ4A at the above address. Deadline is the 25th of the 2nd month prior to the *Auto Call* publication date (e.g., 25 September for the November issue).

Class Announcements

NO-CODE TECHNICIAN/NOVICE CLASS: The Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club and the First Christian Church (Alexandria) Boy Scout Explorer Post will present an entry-level amateur radio training course leading to an FCC Novice and/or Technician license. Morse code instruction will be available. The class will be held in the City of Alexandria on Wednesday evenings beginning in September. There is no charge for the class; however, students will be required to provide their own study materials at a cost of approximately \$25. For information, contact John Forrest, WZ4A at (703)971-3905 or Bill Schmitt, KD4CNS at (703)768-5709.

NO-CODE TECHNICIAN/NOVICE CLASS: The Central Maryland ARC will conduct an entry-level amateur radio training class leading to an FCC Novice and/or Technician license. Morse code instruction will be available if interest warrants. The class will be held at the Greenbelt City Police Station at 550 Crescent Road starting September 8th. There is no charge for the class. However, students will be required to provide their own study materials at a cost of approximately \$25. For more information contact Randy Crenwelge, WB5LPN, at (301) 474-2387.

Club Training Contacts

Alexandria RC	Rich Adamy KA4GFY	(703) 644-3920
Anne Arundel RC	Tony Young WA3YLO	(301) 262-1917
Arlington ARC	Fred Bardsley WD4DHW	(703) 533-0372
Antietam Radio Assn.	Robert Long KD3JK	(301) 824-5132
Baltimore RATS	Joe Chidester W3SHZ	(410) 602-0353
Baltimore ARC	Essex Community College	(410) 780-6854
Fauquier ARC	Neil Spokes AB4YK	(703) 364-3861
Frederick ARC	Hal Silverman W3HWC	(301) 831-7946
Herndon Rep't Gp	Michael Weber WB8RDN	(703) 450-2304
Laurel ARC	Pud Reaver W3DQI	(301) 498-6293
MADRAS	Larry Ziecheck N3GKZ	(301) 984-6113

Continued on page 29



Volunteer Examiner Cooperative

JOHN FORREST WZ4A
6111 Burnett St.
Alexandria, VA, 22310
(703) 971-3905

* Effective July 1, 1995, the Advanced Class written exam question pool (Element 4A) changed. Since the question pool has not been changed for many years, significant changes are anticipated. Be sure to use study materials appropriate for the current question pool.

* The maximum exam fee has been raised by the FCC to \$5.90.

* Copies of the complete (as of date) 1995 VEC Exam schedule from the *Auto Call* database are available. To obtain a copy, please send a large, self-addressed envelope with sufficient postage to cover 10 letter-size pages along with \$1.00 to cover copying costs to WZ4A at the above address.

1995 Schedule of Examinations

September 3 (Sunday)	Elkins, WV- Mount. ARC VEC Walk-In Contact: Walter Corley KF8SX (304)637-0506
	Landover, MD - D.C.M. ARC (ARRL VEC) Walk-In Contact: Freddie Battle NG3G (202)546-9348 (Day) (301)773-2898 (Evening)
September 9 (Saturday)	Alexandria, VA - Mt. Vernon ARC (Laurel VEC) Walk-In Contact: Frank Mackey N4GUS (703)455-1510
	Davidsonville, MD - Anne Arundel Radio Club (Laurel VEC) Walk-In Contact: Bob Israel WC3I (301)262-5083
	Culpeper, VA - (ARRL VEC) Pre-Registration Preferred Contact: Bill Brown AC4KP (703)547-3089 Gary W0QDP (703)854-6187
	Baltimore, MD - Moose Amateur Radio Club (ARRL VEC) Walk-In Contact: Amateur Radio Center (410) 889-5214

September 16 (Saturday)	Laurel, MD - Laurel ARC (Laurel VEC) Pre-Registration Desirable, Limited Walk-In Contact: John Creel WB3GXW (301)572-5124 after 6 PM
	Smithsburg, MD - Mid-Atlantic DX & Rptr Assn. (ARRL VEC) Pre-Registration Requested Contact: J.M. Vaia WB8VBW (301)416-8447 Box 110
September 22 (Friday)	Arlington, VA - The Pentagon - Pentagon ARC (ARRL VEC) Pre-Registration Encouraged Contact: Jim Fox KE4EID (703)756-8994 (Work) (703)931-6523 (Evening)
September 26 (Tuesday)	Glen Burnie, MD - Maryland Mobileers ARC (Laurel VEC) Pre-Registration Requested, Walk-In limited Contact: Jerry Gavin NU3D (410)761-1423
October 1 (Sunday)	Landover, MD - D.C.M. ARC (W5YI VEC) Walk-In Contact: Freddie Battle NG3G (202)546-9348 (Day) (301)773-2898 (Evening)
October 14 (Saturday)	Alexandria, VA - Mt. Vernon ARC (Laurel VEC) Walk-In Contact: Frank Mackey N4GUS (703)455-1510
	Cumberland, MD - Mountain ARC (Mount. ARC VEC) Walk-In Contact: Leo Patterson KQ8E (304)289-3576 Gay Rembold W3DFW (301)724-0674
	Davidsonville, MD - Anne Arundel Radio Club (Laurel VEC) Walk in - Contact: Bob Israel WC3I (301)262-5083
October 19 (Thursday)	Towson, MD - Baltimore ARC (ARRL VEC) Walk-In Contact: Bob Kennick WB3HNV (410)426-8255 Mailbox #3468

Don't forget to bring your license when upgrading!!

October 21 (Saturday)	Laurel, MD - Laurel ARC (Laurel VEC) Pre-Registration Desirable, Limited Walk-In Contact: John Creel WB3GXW (301)572-5124 after 6 PM
	Smithsburg, MD - Mid-Atlantic DX & Rptr Assn. (ARRL VEC) Pre-Registration Requested Contact: J.M. Vaia WB8VBW (301)416-8447 Box 110
October 24 (Tuesday)	Annapolis, MD - Maryland Mobileers ARC (Laurel VEC) Pre-Registration Requested, Walk-In limited Contact: Lois Turner KA3VVQ (410)647-4178
October 28 (Saturday)	Spotsylvania, VA - Fredericksburg VA VE Team (ARRL VEC) Walk-In. Contact: Kelly Shaw AC4MB (703)891-5581 Carolyn Cavanagh AC4SK (703)373-7076
November 4 (Saturday)	Sterling, VA - Herndon Repeater Group (ARRL VEC) Walk-in Contact: Mike Weber WB8RDN (703) 450-2304
November 5 (Sunday)	Elkins, WV (Mount. ARC VEC) Walk-In Contact: Walter Corley KF8SX (304)637-0506
	Landover, MD - D.C.M. ARC (ARRL VEC) Walk-In Contact: Freddie Battle NG3G (202)546-9348 (Day) (301)773-2898 (Evening)
November 11 (Saturday)	Alexandria, VA - Mt. Vernon ARC (Laurel VEC) Walk-In Contact: Frank Mackey N4GUS (703)455-1510
	Davidsonville, MD - Anne Arundel Radio Club (Laurel VEC) Walk-In Contact: Bob Israel WC3I (301)262-5083
	Baltimore, MD - Moose Amateur Radio Club (ARRL VEC) Walk-In Contact: Amateur Radio Center (410) 889-5214



Volunteer Examiner Cooperative

EXAM FEES:

- * Check for appropriate exam fee. Fees and modes of payment for individual VECs and exam teams may vary.
- * ARRL VEC exams cost \$5.90
- * Laurel VEC exams are free
- * Mountain VEC exams are free
- * W5YI VEC exams cost \$5.90

BRING TO EXAM:

- * Picture identification
- * Completed FCC form 610 (most VE teams will supply at exam)
- * Original and a copy of current FCC amateur radio license
- * Originals and copies of all active certificates of successful completion of prior exams
- * Exam fee (check or cash depending on VE team)

"GRANDFATHER" CREDIT FOR ELEMENT 3B (GENERAL WRITTEN):

* If you presently hold a Technician class license which was first issued prior to March 21, 1987, you may be grandfathered for Element 3B (General class written exam) by presenting the original and a copy of the license dated prior to March 21, 1987 to the VE team. It is your responsibility to prove that you are entitled to grandfathering. Do not lose your original license!

RULES FOR SUBMISSIONS TO THE FAR VOLUNTEER EXAMINER COOPERATIVE:

1. All submissions must be in writing
2. Date and day of week must be specified for each exam date
3. Point of contact and phone number must be specified
4. Sponsor and location must be specified
5. VEC must be specified
6. Exam dates up to 12 months in advance will be accepted
7. Deadline for submission is 25th of the 2nd month prior to publication date (e.g., Sept. 25 for November issue)

Silent Keys

Joseph Mullan, W3RLR. On the 22nd of July, 1995, the fraternity of Amateur Radio Operators lost one of its greatest supporters. "Old Joe", as he was affectionately called was a successful businessman, developer, inventor and visionary. Joe held patents in photography and consumer products and was a accomplished furniture maker. Radio, however, always held a high place in Joe's priorities. In the late 30's Joe bred and raced carrier pigeons. In 1941 The U.S. Army drafted Joe and his pigeons. Assigned to the Signal Corps the pigeons provided an untraceable and reliable communication link between Ft. Meade and strategic military offices over the entire Washington, D.C. area. The Signal Corps is where Joe was introduced to the world of Radio. In the 50's Amateur Radio became a part of Joe's life, and he was always on the cutting edge of technology. Joe financed scholarships for The Baltimore Amateur Radio Club through the Foundation. In life and even in passing Joe remembered his fellow Hams by requesting in lieu of flowers that donations be made to the American Radio Relay League. *(Submitted by Melvin J. Brechin N3CEG).*

G. Franklin Montgomery, W3FQB, 74, an electronics scientist who was a retired division chief of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, died of pancreatic cancer July 16 at Washington Hospice. In 1946, he joined the National Bureau of Standards, which later became NIST. He was head of the instrumentation and the measurement engineering divisions before retiring in 1976 as chief of the product engineering division. Mr. Montgomery wrote 40 technical works and held seven patents. He had served as consulting technical editor of the Journal of the Audio Engineering Society and had been a government consultant on energy related inventions. An amateur radio operator, his call letters were W3FQB. Mr. Montgomery was born in Pennsylvania and grew up in Washington. He was a 1937 graduate of Central High School and a 1941 electrical engineering graduate of Purdue University. During World War II, he worked for the Naval Research Lab and served with the Army Signal Corps in the Pacific. Survivors include his wife of 28 years, Joan Hartman Montgomery, and a son, Christopher, both of Washington.

Club Training Contacts (cont'd)

Montgomery ARC	Rocky Jones KC4UXO	(301) 216-5210
Mt. Vernon ARC	John Forrest WZ4A	(703) 971-3905
NASA/Goddard ARC	Vikki Gigante KA3PVS	(301) 249-2609
Ole VA Hams ARC	Charles Dale WA4YGI	(703) 361-3091
Pentagon ARC	David Boyd K9MX	(703) 659-6241
St. Marys Co. ARC	Peter Butt WA3UMY	(301) 862-2214
Shenandoah Val ARC	Guy Black W4PSJ	(703) 722-4952
Southern MD ARC	Vic Curtis WA3YUV	(301) 888-1388
Southern Pax ARC	Dwayne Kincaid WD8OYG	(410) 586-2177
Stafford Adult Ed	Jerry Mullinix AC4HK	(703) 659-3905
Sterling Park ARC	Forrest Snyder N4UTY	(703) 430-4149
Tri-County ARC	John Creel WB3GXW	(703) 572-5124
Vienna Wireless	Paul Wilkins AB4CY	(703) 560-2779
Woodbridge Wireless	Cliff Deel KO4FM	(703) 491-0841

V.E.C. FUNDING

The F.C.C. will not permit the nations Volunteer Examination Coordinators to copyright the Amateur Radio testing question pool. The government agency says that the preparation of the question pools is a part of the volunteer activity expected of V.E.C.'s.

For some time, the V.E.C.'s have been toying with the idea of copyrighting the question pool and then selling commercial publishers access to it. But speaking at the annual meeting of V.E.C.'s, the F.C.C.'s John B. Johnston, W3BE said that the entire purpose of the question pools is to inform examinees, examiners, educators, the amateur radio community and any other interested party as to exactly what a person has to know in order to obtain a ham radio license.

Copyrighting the pools says Johnson, would be fundamentally contrary to the Commission's goal of giving the public the best possible service at minimal cost.

Johnston said that there is one and only one source of funding available to those who function as Volunteer Examination Coordinators. That source of revenue is the testing fees paid by examinees. The dollar amount of those fees is tightly government controlled so as to preclude a V.E.C. from showing any profit from its testing operations and no other solicitation of funds is authorized under the V.E.C. system.

Johnston noted that the National Conference of Volunteer Examination Coordinators, an umbrella organization formed by the V.E.C.'s may collect dues from its members, but it is forbidden to do any other form of fund raising until and unless congress passes legislation to authorize other fund raising activities.

V.E.C.'s INCORPORATE

In a related story, the majority of the V.E.C.'s

attending the conference voted to incorporate as a not for profit 501c3 organization. They will be known as the National Conference of Volunteer Examination Coordinators. As already noted, the A.R.R.L. has decided to not be a part of this new V.E.C. corporation.

It was also agreed that the group will seek additional funding from outside sources. This, to help finance the attendance of the smaller VEC's at the annual meeting.

RM-8626

Look for the F.C.C. to dismiss RM-8626 with little comment. Several sources close to the F.C.C. indicate to Newsline that the Commission is going to reject the petition filed by publisher Fred Maia, W5YI that asks severe limitations be set on high frequency bulletin station operations.

Only a tiny handful of hams filed in favor of Maia's idea. Well over five hundred commentators filing in opposition said that they favor increased selective enforcement action against those few bulletin stations the Amateur Radio community deems inappropriate to be on the air. This, as an alternative to Maia's suggested all out ban.

The only problem with selective enforcement is that it would be constitutionally non-valid if based on what ham radio operators want or do not want another ham to say. The only criteria permitted the F.C.C. for issuing fines or pulling licenses is direct proven violation of the Part 97 rules.

AMSAT NEWS SERVICE NEEDS HELP

The AMSAT News Service needs your help! The service is looking for volunteers to contribute weekly OSCAR status reports. If you have a favorite OSCAR which you work on a regular basis and would like to contribute to this weekly bulletin, please send your observations to WD0HHU at his Compuserve address of 70524,2272 or on the internet at wd0hhu@amsat.org.



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Maryland-DC Virginia's Leading Radio Center:
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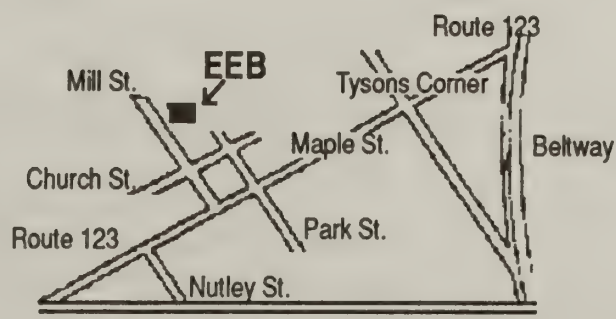
- Complete "Factory Authorized" service center
- Consignment Equipment Corner for your unwanted radios
- Live equipment demos let you kick the tires before you buy
- Come by and see the latest equipment and demos
- Knowledgeable counter staffers (100%Ham)
- Competitive pricing & In-Store Specials
- Over 200 Book Titles in our "Book Nook"
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Alinco, Icom, Kenwood, AOR,
Yaesu, AEA, Daiwa, Bird, Emoto,
Create, Cushcraft, Astron, Sony,
Lowe, Drake, and much, much more.....
You name it, we got it!



STORE HOURS:

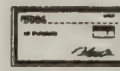
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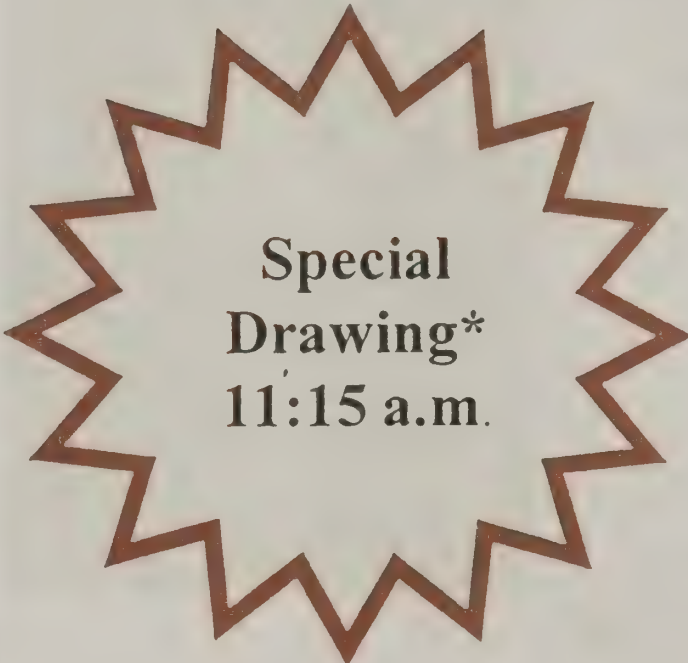
September 10, 1995

Montgomery County Agricultural Center

(Fairgrounds)

Gaithersburg, Maryland

Exit 11 off I-270



Special
Drawing*
11:15 a.m.

- AMATEUR RADIO EQUIPMENT
(NEW AND USED)
- ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT
- COMPUTERS/SOFTWARE
- EXHIBITORS & TAILGATING
- AMATEUR EXAMS
9:00 AM (LAUREL VEC's)

HOURLY DRAWINGS

TALK-IN

146.955-

443.400+

146.520

GATES OPEN AT 6:00 A.M.

GENERAL ADMISSION: \$5.00 ADULTS

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS OPEN 8:00 A.M.

CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE

TailGate, \$10.00 (Standard 10ft. Space) requires one General Admission ticket

GENERAL INFORMATION: Al Brown 301-490-3188

All Requests for advance table and space reservations contact:

Vikki Gigante-Heuber 301-249-2609

1491 Nighthawk Lane

Bowie, MD 20716

"THE ONLY PLACE TO BE SEPTEMBER 10TH"

* Picture ID required to claim prize



Virginia Beach Hamfest

Sept 23 & 24, 1995

Virginia Beach Pavilion, Virginia Beach, Va.



ARRL Virginia State Convention
Major Ham Radio Manufacturers
Ham Radio Dealers

A R E A ' S L A R G E S T
C O M P U T E R E X H I B I T

COMMERCIAL BOOTHS

Lewis Steingold W4BLO
1008 Crabbers Cove Lane
Virginia Beach, Va. 23452
(804) HAM-FEST

Tickets & Tables

Manny Steiner K4DOR
3512 Olympia Lane
Virginia Beach, Va. 23452
(804) HAM-FEST

Tickets for HamFest and Computer show are \$6.00. A prize will be give for advance ticket holders.

AMATEUR RADIO EXAMS & UPGRADES

Sunday Morning, Sept. 24th - Radisson Hotel

CW - 0830 - 0930 Written - 0930 til Noon

No Charge For Novice Exam - All Others \$5.90

All levels of exams will be offered. If licensed, you must bring your Original License, plus any Original CSCE's, photocopies of each. Two positive forms of identification are required, one must have a photo.

SPARK VE Team will again be conducting the exams and upgrades this year.

Walk-ins Only - For Info Call Ed at (804)898-8031

HONORED GUEST SPEAKERS

GORDON WEST WB6NOA

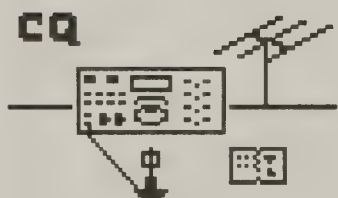
Gordon West has been a licensed Amateur Radio Operator for over 25 years, and also holds a commercial general radiotelephone license with radar endorsement. In his numerous monthly articles in over 17 national magazines, Gordon makes technical explanations fun to read and easy to understand. His recent amateur radio licensing books, sold throughout the country by Radio Shack, have been a sellout. His humorous style of writing encourage learning.

Gordon West is a life member of the American Radio Relay League, and a fellow with the Radio Club of America. His interest and involvement in Amateur Radio has been a benefit to all within the hobby.

WAYNE GREEN W2NSD/1

Editor/Publisher. . . "Cold Fusion" - 73 Amateur Radio Today - Radio Fun - IMPS Journal - Secret Guide to Music - Music Marketing - Declare War Update - Ham Radio Marketing - 20/20 Foresight Record Labels. . . Greener Pastures - Green With Envy - NH Language Systems - Adventures In Music - Independent Music Producer's Syndicate. . . IMPS Mfg. - Collection CDS - Distributing - By Mail Entrepreneur. . . Golden Studios - Uncle Wayne's Bookshelf - Music Books - Music Tees - Mesa Founder - ARRL - QCWA - OOTC - NIAC - NH Tech Council - P Pres. Peterborough C/C And let's not forget my recent book. . . We the People Declare War On Our Lousy Government Other interests. . . Scuba - Skiing - Cooking - Travel - Parapsychology - UFSs - Submarines - Cameras Musics. . . Classical - G&S - Ragtime - Bluegrass - Theater organ - Band organ - Country & Western

HONORED DX GUESTS



Bob Eshleman W4DR (#1 SBDXCC)
Al Hernandez WA3YVN (VP8SGP Dxpedition)
Chip Margelli K7JA (ZA1A and Cuba) also Yaesu Cruises
John Kanode N4MM (#1 Top of the Honor Roll)

SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUET

The committee is again proud to coordinate a banquet on Saturday night for \$19.00 a person. Guest speaker will be Gordon West, Wayne Green, and Jerry Freedman (FCC)

A Family Weekend

The family will enjoy coming to the show, the largest of it's kind on the East Coast. The beautiful Va. Beach Oceanfront is just 6 short blocks from the Pavilion, and the weather will still be warm enough to get in that last swim of the season. The nearby Oceana Master Jet Base has open house to allow the public a first-hand look at the airplanes that defend our country. The local Tidewater area offers many museums. The following are just a few; Virginia Air and Space Museum, Virginia Marine Science Museum, Life-Saving Museum of Virginia, MaCarthur Memorial Museum and Nauticus. You can see that the Hamfest will provide you with a wonderful weekend for the entire family.

DIRECTIONS

Take any road to I-64 and follow it to RT 44 (Va. Beach toll road). Take RT 44 to it's end. Just past the Pavilion turn right at stop light onto Park Ave. Make a right onto 19th Street and then use any entrance to the Pavilion Parking lot.



AMSAT The Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation

Local Meetings: Semiannual in March and September.

VHF FM Net: Sunday at 9 p.m. on 146.835 MHz FM, WA3NAN/R, Greenbelt, MD except on government holiday weekends.

Information: NCS Pat Kilroy, WD8LAQ, Contact by Internet: wd8laq@amsat.org or during weekly net. Looking for new home PBBS and packet list server BBS for local AMSAT individuals.

AMSAT is a non-profit, scientific and educational organization incorporated in Washington, D.C. with headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland. Everyone is welcome to join AMSAT and to become actively involved in the support and operation of the amateur space program. If you would like additional information then please check in to our local net. You may also write to AMSAT-NA at: AMSAT Headquarters, P.O. Box 27, Washington, D.C. 20044. Or you may telephone headquarters at 301-589-6062.

Local AMSAT Meeting Announced

Amateur Radio satellite enthusiasts will meet on Sunday afternoon, September 24, 1995 in Greenbelt, Maryland. All amateurs are invited! Beginners are welcome.

The event will take place in the Visitor Center Auditorium at the NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center. Enter from Soil Conservation Road, just north of Greenbelt Road (MD193). Talk-In will be on WA3NAN/R, 146.835- MHz FM.

All topics relate to amateur radio and the amateur space program. The format will be a combination of presentations and informal "show 'n' tell" demonstrations, as well as a social period.

Special welcome to teachers!

Presenter and demonstration spots are still open. If you have something to talk about or something to show then contact me as soon as possible!

PLEASE SPREAD THIS INFORMATION THROUGH YOUR CLUB NEWSLETTER, AT HAMFESTS, AT SCHOOLS, AND ON YOUR CLUB NET.

A key agenda item will be to identify a local project. A special splinter meeting will be scheduled to get the project off the ground. Bring your ideas!

Advance registration is NOT required for general admission. Advance registration IS required for each presentation or demonstration. A donation of at least \$3 is requested per person to help defray the associated meeting costs.

Extra Attractions

The GSFC Visitor Center will be open to the public on this meeting day, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. including the Satellite Museum, Gift Shop and Picnic Area.

There will be a tour at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. of NASCOM (NASA Communications), the Hubble Space Telescope facility, a life-size space shuttle mockup, the world's largest cleanroom and a satellite being built.

So bring the family! Visitor Center phone: 301-286-8981. Gift Shop: 286-6476.

OPEN TO ALL! BRING A FRIEND! PASS THE WORD!!!

73, Pat WD8LAQ
AMSAT Area Coordinator

H: 301-249-3396 (before 9 p.m.)

W: 301-286-5910 (anytime)



Anne Arundel Radio Club

Meetings: First and Third Thursday of the month at 8 p.m. at the Davidsonville Family Recreation Center, Queen Anne Bridge and Wayson Roads off Maryland Route 214 near Annapolis.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 308, Davidsonville, MD 21035

On The Air: 2030 Thursdays when there is no club meeting on 147.705/105. Tuesdays at 2030 local time on 28.410. Wednesdays at 2000 on 444.400. The Chesapeake Weather & Traffic Net on 147.705/105 at 1100 and 1500 every weekend day and public holiday from April 1 to November 15. MSN (Maryland Slow Net) every evening at 1930 on 3.7170 Mhz.

Information: Margaret (Holly) Bevan, 410-923-0229.

At the July 20th program meeting, Club Member Rich Boyd/KE3Q presented to a full house a 30-minute video showing the actual building of W3LPL, the mega-station in Howard County. A short discussion of towers and antennas followed.

AARC members are very proud and pleased that our own Bob Baltz/N3MNT was selected as FAR "Ham of the Month" for August. They couldn't have found a more deserving person. Bob is Club Treasurer, Keeper of the Data Base, producer of the club roster and an ever-present worker at all Club activities. He is an instructor on the Maryland Slow Net and is active in the National Traffic System. He was co-coordinator of the club's 1995 Field Day, as well as running one of the stations. I could add more, but I don't want him to start thinking about all that he does.

At the Clubhouse on July 8th, Robert Israel/WC3I, Charles Tiemeyer/W3RMD and Oscar Ramsey/NV3G gave 9 tests to 6 persons.

Five tests were passed with 3 upgrades. Other members of the team were: Herb Elkin/KA3FDO, Harlan Ray, III/AA3FE, Robert Kammer/N3POX, Bettye Tiemeyer/K3VRZ and Holly Bevan/N3BMB. One of the regular helpers, Jeff Smith/N3OKY, was missing because his XYL Felicia was in the hospital about to give birth to their first child, Hannah Leigh. The next testing session at the clubhouse will be on September 9th.

Congratulations to John Grout/KT4AD who upgraded to Advanced and to John Queen/KAØSEY who is now General.

73, Holly/N3BMB



Antietam Radio Association

Meetings: First and Third Tuesday of the month at 8 p.m. in the Conference Room at the Washington County Regional Airport, Showalter Road, Hagerstown, Maryland.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 52, Hagerstown, MD. 21741

Nets: Tuesday 7 p.m. 146.940 MHz.; Wednesday 7 p.m. 447.975 MHz.; Thursday 7 p.m. 147.090 MHz.

Repeaters: 147.09+ and 146.94 -.

Information: Donnie Sue Mulligan/KB3AOO (301) 582-2984

After months of planning, gallons of sweat, and several hundred ROLAIDS tablets, the ARA's 1995 Field Day is in the books as the most successful in ARA history. Jim Dula/N3PMP did an outstanding job of coordinating this year's effort. Between 25-30 operators participated, as well as members of a local Boy Scout Troop. The scouts enjoyed themselves so much that they have already asked to be part of next year's event.

In addition to members of the ARA, non-members Dave Buckner/AA3IB, Brenda/KB3ATI, and Bob Rose/AA3HN participated. Club member,

John Smith/N3TDN set up a Novice/Tech station, which drew the interest of many of the Boy Scouts. With a little nurturing, we should have some future HAMs there. To everyone who participated, THANKS. And to those of you who didn't, get the spirit and come out next year to enjoy a great time. (OUR THANKS AND APPRECIATION to Joe Rummel/NS3Q for writing this information for AUTO-CALL. Joe is soon moving to San Antonio, Texas and will be missed around here. Keep in touch with the ARA, Joe!)

MANY THANKS to Amanda Daywalt/N3TVD! Amanda was voted in unanimously on July 11, 1995 to be secretary for the ARA for the remainder of this year, replacing Joe Rummel. Good Luck to you, Amanda.

Our meeting was changed to the second Tuesday because of the July 4th holiday...and we wanted everyone to have a good 4th. Did you???

THANKS to Bob Long/KD3JK for getting all the ARA HAMs together for communications for the Hawk Triathlon on July 16. It was a rather warm day for swimming, biking and running but more than 250 contestants did just that. The first place winner for the men was Troy Jacobson; the first place winner for the women was Barbara Sullivan. Congratulations to all the swimmers, bikers and runners!

The Washington County Reginal Airport, in conjunction with a host of other sponsors, proudly announces the "Fairchild Homecoming and Airshow: The People and the Planes" on September 9th and 10th. You are invited to share in a fantastic weekend full of history, thrills, and excitement! Numerous performers and scores of vintage Fairchild aircraft, built right here in Hagerstown, will come "home" for our entertainment. The ARA has been asked to communicate for the airshow. If interested, call or talk to Charlie Anderson/NF3X and volunteer!

Until next time...

73, Donnie Sue/KB3AOO



Arlington Amateur Radio Club

Meeting: Third Tuesday of each month, 7:30 P.M., Red Cross building, 4333 Arlington Blvd., Arlington, VA. Nonmembers welcome!
Net: Tuesdays (except meeting nights), 7:30 P.M., 144.87/145.47 Mhz FM.

Information: Mike Callaham, NW3V @ WA3TAI, callaham@CapAccess.org, (703) 241-5618.

LLBBS: Area 1 of Beachcomber Joe's BBS (703) 243-0024.

The June meeting of the AARC on July 18th was a tour of the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Control Center at the National Headquarters. There was not formal club business meeting. Attending were: Dennis/W4PWF, Gerry/N4GA, Allen/KE40WH, Mike/NW3V, Tom/N4BYF, George/KR4MU, and Walt/KE4NFF.

Mike Skelly, KA80PJ who has been a guest at a previous meeting indicated an interest in the AARC and David Callaham were guests..

Steve Hailey met us at the main entrance and escorted the group to the Disaster Relief Control Center where we met Ron Crenshaw who is the Director of the Communications Section of the Control Center.

Ron described the layout and operations of the Control Center, which is staffed 24 hours per day, year round. At the time of our visit there were 40 disaster operations underway around the country. The ARC usually responds to over 55,000 disasters each year - but only the biggies — greater than Level 2 — are managed or monitored by the national control center. The initial step in disaster relief is to determine the expected level of cost involved by the American Red Cross. A damage assessment team makes this decision and assigns

Continued next page

the disaster to one of five levels, with Level 5 being the most sever. In 1994 there were two Level 5 disasters and in 1995 there have already been three.

Ron gave us a tour of the Weather Room and its equipment. While there, the telex was reporting the details on the weather. One interesting item was a weather fax program similar to The Weather Channel.

The antennas (a folded dipole, M2 log period, R7, Ringo, and a 2 meter beam) are on the roof and separated to minimize interference: however, this makes for several very long leads.

A bank of HF transceivers were monitoring several frequencies, including two ham calling frequencies - 7.2550 (East Cars) and 14.303 (International Traffic Net).

Others are tuned to the ARC calling frequency and FEMA Emergency Net, which has eight emergency communications centers around the country.

The portable emergency communications equipment consisted of some neat and expensive rigs: There were two HF rigs complete with tuners and portable antenna. Both were about 125 watts and powered by vehicle batteries or gel cells with a service life of about 12 hrs.

Most of the equipment is civilian versions of military equipment. One of the newer trans receivers has an Auto Link Establishment (ALE) which selects the best frequency for communicating.

Ron pointed out that it was essential that the equipment be simple to understand and operate, since many volunteer operators were inexperienced.

Three items of satellite communications equipment were shown and demonstrated. This equipment uses the International Maritime Satellite (Inmarsat). There are four of these fixed satellites (AROW, AROE, POR and IOR) which provide

world-wide coverage, but runs about \$10.00 per minute.

The first of these weighed about 50 pounds, but was stored in a large shipping container that could be difficult to transport. The other two an AMARC and Inmar C were brief case size and could be carried on an aircraft as carry-on baggage. The AMARC was both phone and data and the antenna was contained in the cover of the brief case! The Inmar C, is a 600 baud data only unit. Mike NW3V sent a message, which took about 15 minutes to be transmitted to the satellite, returned to the earth station and relayed back to the communications center.

We next visited the Administration Area, where a nice sleepy lady (I failed to get her name) explained the shift operations of the Disaster Relief Center, naming and numbering of the disasters.

Finally, we went to the parking garage to examine the ARC's Humvee, which was donated by AMC-General (?) to use as a communications vehicle and damage assessment in heavily damaged areas. This \$70,000 vehicle is beautiful — just wait until after it has participated in a couple of assessments!

This interesting and informative tour of the ARC's National Disaster Relief Center, which all enjoyed, ended at 9:10.

Mike, NW3V provided the secretary with a copy of the final report on Field Day - 95 for the club records.



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Baltimore Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: Meetings: Twice monthly, 7:30 pm at Towson Presbyterian Church, Chesapeake and Highland Aves. in Towson, Md. -First Wednesday of the month -business meeting, Third Wednesday of the month - program.

Repeaters: W3FT/RPTR 146.67(-), 224.24 (-) (no PL) and 449.625(-)(PL 107.2) Note: two meter/220 Mhz. repeaters are linked.

Club Net: Every Tuesday night at 8:30 pm on 146.67/224.24.

Club BBS: (410) 665-7646 (min. 2400 baud)

Club Voice Mail/Info: (410) HAMTALK

Hamfests: Greater Baltimore Hamboree & Computerfest/Maryland State ARRL Convention information: (410) HAM-FEST or (800) HAM-FEST.

Mailing: BARC, Inc., P.O. BOX 120, Reisterstown MD 21136

With the approach of September and the new school year, BARC's meeting place will be changing. Unfortunately, at this time the exact timing is uncertain. The second meeting in September will almost certainly be at Dulaney High School, on Padonia Road in Timonium, but the first meeting may still be at Towson Presbyterian Church. For further information, call the club's voice mail system or, if all else fails, put out a call on the club repeater if you're in the area and someone will gladly tell you which site to go to.

Our thanks go to Jim Higgins from the Columbia office of the FCC for an interesting program at our second meeting in July. Jim spoke to us about the various techniques and legwork needed to hunt down malicious interferers such as "Captain Midnight" in 1986. "Captain Midnight", who turned out to be an employee of HBO, briefly hijacked HBO's satellite system in order to broadcast a message protesting encryption of satellite broadcasts, which cut off the "free" service so many people were enjoying.

Congratulations to Paul, N3MOG; Chris, KE3FX; and Nick, KE3HV; for being the first to find the "foxes" in this month's foxhunt, and thanks to Mel, N3CEG, and his son for playing the foxes. The next scheduled foxhunt is Sunday, 20 August, at 1 PM on the club repeater. No date has been set for a foxhunt in September, so listen in on the repeater or contact Chuck, K3FT, via the voice mail system.

Finally, it is my sad duty to relay the news of a Silent Key, Joseph Mullan, W3RLR. I did not know Joe, but he was very highly spoken of by many club members, and BARC in part owes its existence to Joe, who was one of its founders. He will be sorely missed by hams here in Baltimore and elsewhere.

... 73 de N3NYC/Hale



Capital City Amateur Radio Society

Meetings: 3rd Saturday of each month at 1200 hours at the Woodridge Public Library, 18th and Rhode Island Ave, N.E., Washington, D.C. Visitors welcome.

Repeater: W3EIL 144.51/145.11 MHz, open.

Nets: Regular net Wednesday at 2000 hrs, RTTY net Thursdays 2100 hrs, voice portion 2145 hrs, ARES net Sundays 2000 hrs, all on 145.110.

Mailing Address: CCARS, 1719 Franklin St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20018.

Information: Steve, W3ETX, (202) 526-1329 or Chester, W3EIL (202) 529-9598.

Congratulations to the new CCARS club officers: President- Ernest "Steve" Stevens, W3ETX; Vice President-Gustavo "Gus" Hernandez, KE3NY; Secretary-Chester Martin, W3EIL; Treasurer Willis Stewart, N3LGB; and Directors-Weaver "Shep" Shepperson, WB3KIC and Calvin Cooley, WA3HPS.

Continued next page

The running of the 54th annual Washington Area Soap Box Derby took place on Saturday, July 15th, and CCARS was there providing essential communications, giving technical support, and cheering on the participants. The Derby took place on Constitution Avenue NW near the capitol, a very picturesque site. Setup began at 7 am, and the racing didn't end until about 7:30 PM, so plenty of help was needed throughout the day.

Thanks are due to Jim, AA3CD, Collin, N3UBI, Eugene, KD3XIL, Gus, KE3NY, Juan, N3VKY, Bob, KA3GER, Ham, N3DTZ, Juanita, N3NQC, Lenny, N3RPQ, John, N3TCD, and Lydon, N3RFH. Thanks also go to Eddie, W3HQ, and Steve, W3ETX, who provided generators that cranked out the power needed to operate timers, scales and the loudspeaker system. Special thanks are due to Sharon, KA3DOF, who made herself available throughout the day in case any emergency communications were needed.

The heat of the day was almost unbearable. The humidity was high and the W3EIL repeater was reporting temperatures of 103 F (40 C), and that was at a cool spot! In spite of the scorching heat, the racing was exciting.

One race was a tie, which is hard to do when timing is to the nearest millisecond. Another critical race was decided by a mere 4 milliseconds. The kids, ages 9 through 16, are serious racers and you can see the will to win shining in their faces. The winner of each division goes on to the big race in Akron, Ohio.

Our hats are off to the many volunteers and sponsors needed to conduct this event. The race is coordinated by the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby Association and directed by Ken Tomasello. We wish Ken many more successful races and look forward to participating in the future.

Many CCARS members who would have liked to have been present to help at the Derby were attending the 43rd Annual OMIK Convention which took place July 12-15 in Richmond, Virginia.

The conference is organized by the OMIK Amateur Electronic Communications Association, Inc. It includes technical sessions, FCC testing, scholarship awards, tours, entertainment, and a lot of face-to-face rag chewing. Participants considered it a great success this year.



Central Maryland Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: 4th Friday of the month at 7:30pm, at the New Carrollton Municipal Center, 6016 Princess Garden Parkway, New Carrollton, MD (no meeting in December).

Repeater: N3EZD/R 145.230 MHz

Net: Every Tuesday, 9:30pm, 145.230 MHz repeater.

Mailing Address: Central Maryland Amateur Radio Club, 6016 Princess Garden Parkway, New Carrollton, MD 20784.

Information: Oscar Ramsey, Pres - NV3G, (301) 262-3392.

The discussion at CMARC's July meeting primarily revolved around the planned repeater upgrade and CMARC's involvement in the upcoming Greenbelt Labor Day Festival.

Jim/KD3JA announced that arrangements had been completed for the installation of a telephone line at the repeater site. This telephone line will allow for external control of the repeater by dialing into it, and can be used for auto-patch, once the new repeater controller is installed. Oscar/NV3G reported that, in studying the manual for the controller the club was considering, Mike/N3EZD had found some deficiencies in this controller. The technical committee would now consider other, most likely more expensive, controllers.

CMARC will be heavily involved in the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival. Besides providing communications for the Labor Day parade, CMARC will run a food booth selling "Brownies A La Mode" and Tropicana drinks. A number of organizational and logistical concerns were discussed concerning the parade and food booth.

Tony/N3JWT is CMARC's liaison to the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival committee.

Jim/KD3JA and his XYL invited all CMARC members to join in operating a Club Station in the Maryland-DC QSO Party from their backyard on Sunday August 13th. Jim noted that this would be an excellent chance for Technician class members to get experience working on the HF bands. The day would culminate with a Pot-Luck dinner/barbecue.

73 de Jim/KD3JA



Columbia Amateur Radio Association

Meeting: 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m., at the Kiwanis Building at the Kiwanis/Wallace Park off of Rte. 144, Ellicott City.

Net: 147.135 repater at 8:30 p.m. each Tuesday except for meeting nights.

Youth net: 147.135 repeater at 7:30 p.m. every Thursday.

Repeaters: 147.735/147.135 (cross-linked to 222.32/223.92); 147.990/147.390 (direct dial 911); 222.32/223.92 (cross-linked to 147.735/147.135); and 443.275/448.275.

Information: Bob Scarburgh, Pres - KC3EV, (410)465-2421.

Mailing: P.O. Box 911, Columbia, MD 21044

Our April and May meetings were devoted to preparations for Field Day. At the April meeting, Rol-K3RA, discussed contesting in general with particular emphasis on those aspects that related to Field Day. He also covered strategies and statistics from past Field Days.

At the May meeting, the Field Day Committee presented the organization and strategy they developed during their planning meetings. The June meeting, which came two days after Field Day, was devoted to critiquing the event and the club's performance.

Field Day itself was an adventure as always. The field behind Clarksville Elementary School was soaked from all the rain that had occurred. It rained off and on the first day. A couple of antennas broke, all in all, a typical Field Day. This year, we planned our club picnic to coincide with Field Day, and, in spite of the rain, there was a fairly nice turnout. Thanks to Dionne-KA3ZDL and Joy-KE3MP, there was plenty of food.

Field Day participants are now gearing up to defend the club's title during the Maryland QSO Party in August.

Plans for the July and August meetings include some combination of show-and-tell, construction projects, and swap meet. Members are encouraged to bring any project or unusual equipment they have worked on to share with the other members.

73's, Jean Williams-KB3AOT



Fauquier Amateur Radio Association

Meeting: 7:30 p.m., Second Tuesday of the month except July, August and December. Shadow Lawn Recreation Center, Warrenton VA. Next meeting, September 12, 1995.

Breakfast: Last Saturday of the month at Big Boy (next to HoJo's) Warrenton, VA. 7:30-9:00 a.m.

Net: Every Wednesday, 9:00 p.m., 147.165 Mhz NZ4N Repeater.

Packet: KE4YVU FARA7 node 145.070 Mhz with direct connect to FBBS9

FBBS9 Bulletin Board 145.090 Mhz,
FARA9 node 145.090 Mhz.

Repeater: NZ4N/R 147.165 Mhz (+0.600 Mhz)

Newsletter: TOROID, Monthly.

Information: Don, WY2V, (703)347-5745.

Continued next page

The September meeting will kick off the Fall season of events. KD6AKC will be giving a talk on AMSAT and the new Phase 3D satellite. Don is always looking for a good presentation for the meetings, so if you have an interest you'd like to share with the club please volunteer. Also time to start thinking about officer positions for 1996. Elections are coming up faster than you think. The FARA9 packet node is back up and running smoothly thanks to a new radio the club voted for in June. Chuck N4YXW has things back in operation and running better than ever under the new club call KE4YVU.

The breakfast on July 29 was well attended. Six of us met at the Big Boy for coffee, food and lots of good discussion about radios. What a Summer! We saw lot's of heat, lots of visiting relatives, and lots of lightning. K4LLQ got the "big packet from "the sky" at the end of July. There was no major damage to the radios thanks to an excellent grounding system on his big sky wire, but he can't find traces of the dipole or the open wire feeder anywhere! The gorgeous willow tree that was one of the antenna supports caught the worst of the bolt, and the buried power line actually caused most of the damage to his equipment. Larry is counting his blessings that the house is still standing and already has a new antenna up. In fact, he rediscovered a mode with it - the Easy-Sat RS/12. Larry worked it on 15 meters and had a great time. Highly recommended. Neil AB4YK, was discussing a project he's working with Bob AD4IW to build a portable ten gigahertz dish (a big one). Anybody have any ideas? Woody KC6NOT says the toroid is almost ready to go out and he's always looking for good columns, articles or items for sale.

In August we supported the annual Ride-a-thon. The benefit takes place at Great Meadow on horseback. Although we had trouble finding a mounted Ham, we were there supporting emergency communications. I'm looking forward to the FAR-FEST in Gaithersburg. I hope I see you there.

73, Mark, KD6AKC



Frederick Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: Usually we meet at 7 PM on the second Tuesday on each month at 7 PM at the Frederick County EOC on Montevue Lane in Frederick. Although for the September meeting we are planning for an "Eating Meeting" at a local restaurant. Please call our Sound Source phone number for the latest info at (301) 695-2633 and use code 6393.

HELLO AUTOCALL READERS!!!! It's been a LONG TIME to say the least! If procrastination wasn't one of my strong suites we would have written sooner but I'll write about that later. (smile) The FARC has been moving right along over the past couple years and is continuing at full speed.

I want to first of all thank all of the members who re-joined this year and all of the new members that came on board. This year is one where many of our projects that were just in the planning stages last year are now coming to be and their help is the only thing that makes it all happen.

We now have coordination from T-MARC for a two-meter repeater at the same county site where our current 448.425 is located. We are in the stage now of looking for repeater brands and features. While we are in the process of adding a two meter system, the prospect of adding a 220 Mhz one as well came up, so we will be investigating that angle also. As for the 448.425, we are looking for a new antenna that will cover the fringes of Frederick County and beyond and are looking for a controller that not only will control the '425 but also the 2-meter and possibly the 220 Mhz system as well.

As you may already know, we no longer have the motor home that was the K3ERM Mobile Communications Van. Increased repair problems and the high yearly insurance bill lead to it's

downfall. Good news is that the club is looking at a tower trailer that is for sale locally. The advantages of this trailer is that insurance for it would be extremely low to nothing and maintenance would be simple and cheap. The possibility also exists to mount the 4 kilowatt generator that we kept from the motor home to it. Doing so would provide us with both power and a 50 foot antenna platform to do some impressive emergency communications work.

We "test drove" this trailer on field-day which went very well for being the club's first shot at field-day in a few years. We were able to make approximately 200 contacts. We had just over 100 on 6 meter, 2 meter, and 70 cm SSB bands. On HF we had about 80 to 90 contacts. On our 2 packet stations, both running 2 meters, we only had 5 or 6 contacts (better luck next year for packet, I hope).

BIG THANKS to Eric N8AAY for heading up our Father's Day Hamfest this year. Eric, you did real good! Our hamfest was the biggest one of recent years and the Frederick Amateur Radio Club's name was promoted more than ever before. We sent out over 11,000 flyers before the event and had an article in the Frederick News-Post the day following the hamfest. Thanks also goes to all the volunteers who came out the day before to set-up and the day during to run the event. Our gross receipts for the day were pretty good but our costs were up there also so all-in-all we netted about the same as in previous years. Major challenge for next year; increase promotion while decreasing costs. It can be done with everyones help.

Another project: The KMA site! John N3KMA, our secretary, has generously offered to allow the club to use up to 1/2 acre of the highest portion of his property (1180 feet above sea level!) to build a repeater site. We've done some preliminary surveys of the site and have had Potomac Edison engineers out to do some price quotes on running power to the site. Well, power isn't cheap and digging through rocky soil isn't either. PE gave us two figures, one if they dig the trench to run the underground wiring and lay it, and the other if they just lay the wire in the trench we dig ourselves.

Digging the trench ourselves is a possibility but might not be cost effective if we still need to rent equipment and manpower to do the job. Anyone have a back hoe we can borrow and some spare time??? The latest news is that I've gotten to speak to a local ham who works with commercial power everyday and was able to get some very helpful tips that may make this project a reality. This idea of another site really comes from a long standing dilemma the club has had for many years being that we have repeater space loaned to us at the county facilities for which we are grateful but of which we have limited access. Due to liability reasons of which many clubs and counties share, members of the FARC cannot climb county towers to experiment with antenna placement and designs, only bonded professional climbers that the county recognizes are allowed. Obviously the problem arises that for every little change you want to make will cost a small fortune so this is planned to be the club's experimental site where tinkering with set-ups is the top priority. All of our major repeaters will stay at the county sites where they are secure, safe, and have major coverage and emergency power to help the ARES gang.

Now maybe I should have mentioned who the current 1995 FARC Board of Directors of the club are, so here we are:

Wayne Wisner Jr.	KA3YEE	President
Jim Ridgely	N3HTA	Vice President
John Fitz	N3KMA	Secretary
Scott Robertson	N3MVB	Treasurer

The Trustee of the club's callsign is Scott Robertson N3MVB. The Frederick County Emergency Coordinator and ARES director is Eric Gammeter N8AAY. The Frederick County RACES Director is Rick Ogden N3RO.

If you need to find out the latest info on the club and its activities please call our Sound Source number at (301) 695-2633 and enter code 6393.

Until next time...73's.

Wayne Wisner Jr. KA3YEE



Goddard Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Meeting: Third Wednesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. at the Goddard Amateur Radio Club station, Soil Conservation Road, Greenbelt, MD, across from the Soil Conservation Road gate of the Goddard Space Flight Center. This road may be accessed from either Route 193, Greenbelt Road, or Powder Mill Road.

Net: Information net is held every Thursday evening at 9:00 p.m. local time. All amateur radio operators are welcomed. Net Control is Don Bennett, W3MIK

Repeater: 146.835 Mhz.

Information: Jim Blackwell, N3KWU, (301) 286-4534; Vikki Gigante-Hueber, KA3PVS, (301) 249-2609.

We have just completed our first field day that was a real field day. For those of you who know anything about GARC field days, we set up at the visitor's center at Goddard and although we run everything generator power and string up antennas, etc., we do have a building that we can use for conveniences. This year was different however. We set up at the antenna test range at Goddard and roughed it! We had a great time and managed to keep the radios busy the entire time! Thanks to all who helped set up and take down and those who participated. This includes John Stolarik, Hugh O'Donnell, Dave Gossard, Carolyn Keydash, Pat Kilroy, Jim Gass, Robert DiRosario, Jim Blackwell, Gary Anderson, and all of the others who helped. It was great fun with a food tent, a packet tent and an HF phone tent, an HF CW tent, a satellite tent and a novice station in a van. All in all, great fun and about 3800 points!

We are back on shuttle retransmission duties. With a mission currently going on (STS-70) and two to come before the end of July, one on July 13 and the other on July 30, we will be busy. The current one is a SAREX mission. With the Mir

docking, it has been a plenty busy mission and we have fixed our two meter transmitter so hopefully, you will be able to hear us better locally. We are fully in the new retransmission trailer so give us a visit and see our new operations! We can always use more operators so if you want to help, call Vikki, KA3PVS at (301) 249-2609 and we'll get you trained and operating! Thanks. That is all for now, have a great summer and we'll see you during shuttle retransmission at WA3NAN!

The GARC open house will be 5-9 p.m. on Wednesday, September 20 at the club station.

73's, Vikki



Green Mountain Repeater Association

Meetings: Board of Directors, Last Monday of each month.

Repeaters: KD3VR-146.61 (Cheverly), K3GXF-146.88 (Greenbelt).

Luncheon: First Saturday of each month at the Fountain Cafe, in the Laurel Shopping Center Mall, US Route 1 (Baltimore Ave.) and Cherry Lane. Starts at 11:30 AM.

Mailing: GMRA, P.O. Box 429, Riverdale, MD 20737

Information: Boyd Nelson - KZ3Z (301) 434-0934

GMRA held it's monthly luncheon meeting at the Laurel Center shopping Mall on Saturday, July 1, 1995. Because of the upcoming 4th of July holiday, it was thought that the date should be changed to the following week. However it proved to be a great turnout with over 30 attendees.

Replacing the antennas with new and different styles at the two repeater sites is now in the go ahead stage for the Board of Directors. Any membership donations would be greatly appreciated. Also, if anyone would like to donate

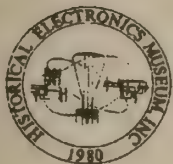
any radio or electronic gear to GMRA would be greatly appreciated.

Electronic items could in turn be sold at Hamfests and the proceeds go toward the Antenna Fund. Contact Joe, KD3VR, at (301) 577-3749 evenings. New antenna work will have to wait for better weather conditions in the fall.

We hope that members and other operators, using the repeaters, have not iced some of the new information that has been programmed into the repeaters. Great idea, and thanks to that Control Operator for his expertise. Who is that masked man?

GMRA, we are happy to announce, is growing steadily in membership and at this time we would like to welcome all the new members. Please come to the monthly luncheons.

73's, Ken Easton, N3HLY



Historical Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: Third Wednesday of each month, 5:30 PM, In the Historical Electronics Museum, West Nursery Road and Elkridge Landing Roads. Linthicum, Maryland (Next to BWI Marriott Hotel).

Net: Monday 8:00 PM, 146.67(-)/224.24(-) MHz (courtesy of BARC).

Information: Ernie Farkas K3CBW - (410) 747-1377.

Mail: 1745 W. Nursery Rd., Linthicum, MD 21090.

The Historical Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club (HEMARC) is now chartered as an ARRL affiliated club. The club is sponsored by The Historical Electronics Museum Inc., in support of the museum's mission to disseminate knowledge of the history of electronics.

There are 53 members on the originating roster. The officers of the club are: President, Ernest C. Farkas, K3LBW; Vice President, Dale Cochrane, AA3BK; Secretary, Freeman Fruge, W3YBB; and Treasurer, Cam Marie, W3EPR.

The club station, W3GR, is located in the museum and features a Westinghouse TBL-13 Navy transmitter from WWII. W3GR, has been reissued to the trusteeship of HEMARC from the predecessor organization, The Friendship Amateur Radio Club where it was the call of Charlie Hartman, one of its original members in the mid 1950's. The club station is active on special event occasions and also includes modern transceivers. On very special occasions marking milestones in the history of electronics, the club uses the historic call W8XK from the 8XK call of Dr. Frank Conrad, founder of radio broadcasting.

The Historical Electronic Museum was opened in 1983 and provides public exhibits encompassing components and equipment that demonstrate the progress of electronics from spark days through world wars and modern radar and communications technology. Hams and anyone interested in electronics are cordially invited to visit the museum. An SCR-270D, the radar at Pearl Harbor is exhibited. A classic WWII ground radar, SCR-584, has been restored to operating condition and was featured in the PBS NOVA program "Echoes of War." A number of pre WWII radios and tubes are also on display. The Museum is free and open to the public Monday-Friday 9 AM to 3 PM and Saturday 10 AM to 2 PM. The museum also maintains a library of electronic history which includes volumes of old QST's, 73's, books and video tapes of radio and radar history.

The July HEMARC meeting featured the second session of "Digital Modes Hamming" presented by John Grimes, KD3WY. The first meeting covered the general principles and this meeting featured some demonstrations of the equipment and software. True to Murphy's law some features refused to function in the meeting

Continued next page

area and will be covered in a future demonstration. We are indebted to John for introducing us to the wide variety of modes that are available and active on the ham-bands.

Training for anyone interested in obtaining their first amateur license will be offered by HEMARC beginning Tuesday September 19, 1995 at the museum. The class begins at 7:30 PM every Tuesday and will continue for 8 to 10 weeks. For additional information and registering please call: Ernie Farkas, K3CBW, working hours 410-747-1377 or Roland Anders, K3RA, evenings and weekends 410-796-4792.

Many thanks to: Mike Carr, WA1QAA, for completing the VHF net mission; Dean Bush, K3KHG, for the Yagi; The crew that repaired the club vertical and especially Heru Wamsley, W3WVV, for finding and repairing the cause of the problem!

73's de Chip W4PBG



Laurel Amateur Radio Club

A Volunteer Examiner Coordinator

Meetings: 4th Wednesday of each month (except November & December) 7:30pm at 384 Main Street, Laurel Md.

Social: 2nd Wednesday of each month, except December (Call for directions).

Nets: 1st & 3rd & 5th Wednesdays, 8:30pm, on 147.225+, no tone.

Mail: P. O. Box 3039, Laurel, MD 20709-0039

Exams: 3rd Saturday of each month, to pre-register contact: John/WB3GXW (301) 572-5124 after 6 P.M.

Information: Jim/WI3N (301)725-6829 or Pud/W3DQI (301)498-6293.

The Laurel ARC will conduct a Special Event on 10 September to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the city of Laurel. Ken/NX3K and Pud/W3DQI are planning the event. Operations are scheduled

to be conducted from the oldest house in Laurel. Operating times and bands will be published in QST and CQ magazines.

LARC HAPPENINGS

Welcome back! to Jim/WI3N, LARC President, who recently traveled to Honduras with a group from his church to do some construction projects. Jim reported that he spotted a few ham antennas in the area he was visiting but wasn't able to make any eyeball QSOs. He said it was "beautiful!"

Mike/WB3HUP participated in the MD QSO Party, Aug 12-13, as a mobile station. His goal was to work other stations from ALL Maryland counties! We'll give you a report of his success next month.

Roger/N3MIJ, participated in the Cycle Across Maryland event during the last week of July. Roger was "bicycle mobile" and was able to assist other riders by calling for the "sag wagon" when they needed mechanical or other assistance. Roger reported that Jerry/NU3D and the Maryland Mobileers coordinated and organized the communications for the week long event and did an outstanding job.

At the monthly LARC meeting in July, Joe/NA3T and Mike/NV3Z gave an interesting report of their EME activities. They have made successful EME contacts on 432 MHZ and 2M.

At our August meeting, Bill/KI7AO, who now resides in Washington state, will visit us and give a presentation on ARES and RACES in the state of Washington and, in particular, the "search and rescue" operations.

Anyone interested in joining the Novice/Tech class starting in September, to be conducted on successive Monday evenings, should call Pud/W3DQI at 301-498-6293.

73 de Roger/N3MIJ



The Maryland Apple Dumpling Radio Amateur Society, Inc.

Meetings: 2nd and 4th Thursdays - 7:00 P.M.
NBC Building - WKYS Conference Room,
4001 Nebraska Avenue, Washington, DC.

Nets: 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 8:30 P.M. on
145.45 MHz.

Repeaters: 444.100 PL-2/449.100 MHz,
145.45/144.85 MHz.

WWW Address: <http://mvhsl.mbhs.edu/~fwright/MADRAS.html>

Mailing: P. O. Box 2468, Wheaton, MD 20902

Information: Larry Ziecheck - N3GKZ (301) 984-6113, Jean Blacik N3PLC (301) 984-6113.

It may have been hot, humid and in the high 90's on July 16th when we held our annual Picnic/Barbecue at Michele's (WK3X), but she has the most wonderfully air conditioned home, which was around 74 degrees. Indoor picnics are a must during the later part of July and we appreciate the use of her home and yard for our get-togethers. We had a great turnout this year and feasted on hamburgers, hot dogs, salads, fruits, cakes, watermelon, drinks, etc. We want to thank everyone who was able to participate in our gala affair this year and also to express our appreciation to all of you who donated the mouthwatering food we all enjoyed. I'm already looking forward to next year's picnic.

During the summer months, as you know, we hold our Net every Thursday at 8:30 P.M. on 145.45 MHz. Thanks to many of our members and friends who have remembered the day and time we have had great nets this summer. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank our Net Control, Quin (N3KGM) for faithfully being on the air and leading our Net every week.

Our eye-ball meetings will resume this month. Our first meeting will be on September 8th and our second meeting will be on the 22nd. Watch for

the September bulletin announcing speakers and topics.

With cooler weather on its way we hope to see many of you wearing your new MADRAS jackets this fall. We plan on placing another order for jackets in October for the members who were unable to get in under the deadline for the last order.

Have a safe and happy Labor Day.

73's Jean - N3PLC



The Mid-Atlantic DX and Repeater Association

Meetings: Second Thursday of each month, 7PM, rotating locations among Hagerstown MD, Frederick MD, Martinsburg WV and Greencastle PA.

Net: Tuesday evenings at 1930 local on 147.06

Repeaters: 147.345 (Martinsburg), 147.06, 224.20 & 448.125 (Frederick).

Mailing: 230 North Potomac St., Suite 2A, Hagerstown MD 21740

Information: Voice BBS 301-416-8447; select box 126 for Sam, N3MPE LandLine BBS: (301) 416-8435

Well, it's over. MADRA's first HamFest, that is. SweatFest'95 was a success on July 23, despite a morning shower. It looks like combining a HamFest with a downtown location is a winner. A lot of Hams made it a family day, touring the Brunswick Railroad Museum and the downtown arts, crafts and antique stores as well as the 'Fest vendors and tail gaters. We enjoyed strong support from the City of Brunswick, the American Legion Post and local industry, all of whom added to our volunteer work force for setup, operations and tear down.

Other July events included the monthly dinner, this time at Hoss's Steak and Seafood House in

Martinsburg, WV. Some of our new WV members joined us for the first time. As we improve the 147.345 repeater, we see a small surge in membership following each new feature added, so we feel we're on the right track.

MADRA members were among those from several clubs in the western MD area assisting with Cycling Across Maryland (CAM) July 28. Ham Radio support paid off in the improved safety of all cyclists and quick response of emergency services for at least one serious injury.

We held a special dinner meeting to review SweatFest'95 and plans for the future at the Cafe on the Rocks, Point-of-Rocks, MD, on Friday, July 28. This was also a chance to check out a new location, so we hope to include Point-of-Rocks in our regular rotation and bring in more of our Virginia members when we meet there.

Since this is a September column, by the time it appears we will have made our second try at the MADRA picnic. Rained out in June, we were rescheduled for August 26 at Greenbrier State Park (between Frederick and Hagerstown) with hopes for a much less rainy day.

A number of projects will consume our energies in September and October. MADRA will be the Host Club providing hospitality services to the crews operating the gates, event station and other support services at FARFest95 in Gaithersburg. This effort looks like it will involve 15-20 members, many for two days. Don't be surprised if you see the MADRA logo in a lot of places as you make your way around the fairgrounds.

After FARFest, upgrade projects are on the docket for the 147.06 and 224.20 repeaters near Frederick. At Martinsburg we plan to improve the 147.345 antenna and activate 220 and 440 repeaters. Administrative tasks we face include approval of the charter and bylaws by the membership and negotiation of new agreements for site access with our landlords at Frederick and Martinsburg locations. Wish us luck! In

September we will meet at 7 PM in Richardson's Restaurant, Hagerstown, MD, on Thursday September 14. All are welcome for dinner, fellowship and talk about Ham Radio. If you plan to attend, leave a message at box 112 on the voice BBS so we can help the restaurant predict the number who will arrive.

73 DE N2CSQ/3



Montgomery Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m., Executive Office Bldg, Montgomery Co. Govt Center, 101 Monroe St, Rockville. Park in underground lot G-2.

Repeater: 146.955 (-600) Rockville

Club Net: 2nd 4th and 5th Wednesdays of each month at 7 p.m. on the MARC repeater and 7:30 p.m. on 28.450 MHz.

Mail: MARC, P.O. Box 611, Gaithersburg, MD 20884-0611

Information: Jeff - KZ3F (301) 258-0112

Training: Ms. Rocky Jones (301) 216-5210

THEY GOT A GREAT ANTENNA AT AN EVEN BETTER PRICE

While ham radio has evolved a great deal from its early days when "home brew" projects were the hobby's heart and soul, a little "home brewing" is a good thing, especially in today's world of plug and play. That was the opinion of members of the Montgomery Amateur Radio Club who came together earlier this year to complete a construction project designed to strengthen signals without weakening wallets.

In 1993, MARC members built top-performing \$5 dummy loads; in 1994, they constructed \$11 two-meter filters designed to reduce innermod noise. In 1995, the project of choice was focused on the construction of two-meter and 440 yagi

antennas-44 of them to be exact!

Interest in the project was sparked by MARC President Al Rabassa, NW2M, who demonstrated one of the yagi antenna modeling programs through a flat panel display from a laptop computer. Two models were selected based upon popular vote—a five-element yagi for 2 meters, and a 12-element yagi for 440 MHz.

Rabassa picked these models largely due to antenna performance and the ease of shipping six-foot aluminum tubes and aluminum rods via United Parcel Service. The group bombarded Texas Tower with a request for 264 feet of one-inch boom, 900 stainless steel retainers, and 1,056 feet of solid 3/16" rod!

Due to the \$25 minimum purchase requirements, club members worked in small groups to distribute the nominal shipping costs. Rabassa says he didn't want to pull out the VISA for this one!

Would-be antenna builders were outfitted with a four-page construction manual specifically written and distributed for this project. Club members were instructed to do all of the element cutting and preparation prior to the meeting, where the main focus would be on the precision drilling process.

Rabassa built a precision vee-block and boom-steady to ensure the holes were straight and through the center. After 400 pulls on the drill press, the job was finished—or so some thought. Actually, it was just beginning ...

The club had earlier voted to purchase the VHF/UHF antenna analyzer to ease the task of tune-up. The total cost was under \$30 for either antenna. Some people built both.

A heart-felt thanks goes to Al Rabassa for his time and efforts. MARC's fall construction project is on the planning board... We'll keep you posted.

Nolan Crabb, AA3GO



Moose Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: 4th Wednesday of each month at the Towson Moose Lodge.

Mailing: Moose Amateur Radio Club, 8801 Mylander Ln., Towson, MD 21286

Information: Leave message (410) 823-9853

The Moose Amateur Radio Club has re-instated their testing program starting with a test session held on July 15. There were 6 applicants who tested with 3 new licenses earned and 2 upgrades.

We will hold testing on the 2nd Saturday of the Odd number months (Jan., Mar., May, Jul., Sep., Nov.) at the Amateur Radio Center 1117 W. 36th St., Baltimore, MD 21211. Check-in will begin at 10:30 A.M. and testing will start at 11 A.M. Further information on testing can be obtained by calling the Amateur Radio Center at (410) 889-5214.

73 - Bill WA3ZER



Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: Second Thursday of each month, 7:30 p.m.(except December) Mt. Vernon Governmental Center 2511 Parker's Lane, Alexandria, VA 22308.

Nets: Every Tuesday at 9:00 p.m. Starts on 2 meters then moves to 10 meters on 28.408.

Repeater: WD4PDP 146.055 input / 146.655 output.

Mailing: Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club(MVARC) c/o Joe Salemi KR4CZ, P.O.Box 7234, Alexandria, VA 22307.

Information: John KI4HK, (703)780-2882 or Julie KD4WSZ, (703)799-9466 or Packet 145.650 KD4LST-1.

Continued next page

NEW BOY SCOUT EXPLORER POST IN ALEXANDRIA

A new Explorer Post will be joining the George Washington District of the Boy Scouts of America. Explorer Post 80 will soon open its doors in the Alexandria area. The Post's specialties will be centered around communications and electronics technology and will feature an operational amateur radio ("ham") station, computers and other high technology areas of interest to its members. The Post will also integrate camping and high adventure activities into the program such as the use of portable radio operations in support of disaster preparedness and community service.

The Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club (MVARC) and the First Christian Church of Alexandria, have joined to cosponsor Explorer Post 80. Members of both organizations will support the Post and serve on the Post Committee. The First Christian Church will provide the new home for the Post in church facilities located at 2723 King Street in Alexandria, Virginia 22302 (King Street near Janey's Lane).

The Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club is providing some initial financial assistance to get Post 80 off to a sound start. The club is also seeking donations of used radio equipment (working or repairable) and computers, monitors, video and serial cards, keyboards, etc., for the post's Amateur Radio Station and technology activities. Call Bill Schmitt, KD4CNS (703-768-5709) for pickup of your tax deductible charitable equipment contributions.

Commencing in mid September, volunteer members of the Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club will conduct training for post members and adult leadership to obtain entry level and advanced level amateur radio licenses from the Federal Communications Commission. These licensing classes are offered free of charge except for the study materials which are furnished at cost (\$25). The classes are also open to all interested scouts and scouters as well as any member of the general public who desires to become a licensed amateur

radio operator. See training class announcements elsewhere in *Auto Call*.

Area amateurs are encouraged to refer interested Scouts and youth (both female and male) who are at least 14 years of age to one of the persons below to receive a mailing and further information concerning initial activities of Explorer Post 80 and amateur radio in general. Area amateurs interested in working with Explorer Post 80 are also invited to contact us.

Demi Pulas	(703) 941-5783 (H) (202) 208-2276 (O)
Bill Stewart	(703) 642-8942 (H) (202) 452-4163 (O)
Bill Schmitt	(703) 768-5709 (H) (703) 602-0744 (O)



National Capitol DX Association

Meetings: Feb, Apr, Jun, Oct and Dec. at a member's home. Contact the Secretary (Rick Murphy, WA1SPT) for details.

On-the-air: Every Sunday at 8:30 PM on the 147.000 repeater. All are welcome!

Information: Brian Bayus-N1KCE (703) 264-1180, Rick Murphy-WA1SPT(703) 280-2637 or Leo Boberschmidt-KA3TGY (301) 946-3738 or N1KCE on the PVRC DX Net (@N40HE, N1KCE@KF4TE.VA.USA.NA. or bbayus@ix.netcom.com).

Well, we had a great time at Marty Johnson's (W3YOZ) place for the Annual Fowl Fest held in conjunction with PVRC. A great time was had by all. Thanks, again, Marty.

Membership certificates were passed out to several new Members: Ron Rubin - N3KQY, Erin Tordella - N3HSA and Richard Maylott - W4LMJ. Congratulations! A number of others were attending their second or third meeting and we look forward to welcoming them as Members, soon.

We would really like to increase our Membership and get more of you interested and involved in DX'ing. It is a great opportunity to have the chance to learn from and "rub elbows" with some of the most accomplished and well known DX'ers in the country in a friendly and collegial atmosphere. So, consider giving one of those listed above a call to find out more about us or join us for the weekly meeting on the air every Sunday evening at 8:30 on the 147.000MHz (-) K3WX repeater. All are welcome to check in.

Our next meeting will be in October at a location as yet to be determined. It is our annual meeting, with election of officers for 1996. The location and directions will be in the October Edition of *Auto Call*.

Until next time, 73 and Good DX.

Brian Bayus - N1KCE



Prince George's Wireless Association

Meetings: First working Tuesday of each month, 7:30 PM; American Red Cross bldg., 6206 Belcrest Rd, Hyattsville, MD 20782
Club Station: K3CEZ

Mailing: 4109 Kennedy St., Hyattsville, MD 20781

Information: Frank Holton - WA3ZMW
(301) 927-1245

meetings have been postponed, temporarily, for the summer period. Dave, WB3KXL, is the on going instructor for our members and we feel that it is not fair to Dave when we don't have a full compliment at this time. Hopefully it will resume in a month or so.

Frank, our club President, has been showing ARRL video tapes that he sends for from Headquarters. The tapes are very interesting from a learning standpoint. The tape shown at this last meeting was about Aurora Borealis, the Northern Lights. This was a fantastic video display produced at the Geophysics Institute in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Prince George's Chapter of the American Red Cross has an SET exercise planned for August 3, 1995 and PGWA will act as communicators on the Amateur Bands.

73's from Ken Easton, N3HLY



Quarter Century Wireless Assn. Shenandoah Valley Chapter #137

Meetings: Third Wednesday of odd-numbered months, at 12:30 PM; Carper's Valley Golf Club, 1401 Millwood Pike (Route 50 East), Winchester, VA; reservations suggested.

Information: Perry F. Crabill, Jr., W3HQX;
540-662-7526 Mailing Address: 225 Milam Drive, Winchester, VA, 22602.

PGWA held it's regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 11, 1995 instead of the usual first Tuesday of the month which was the 4th of July.

Frank, WA3ZMW presided and ran the usual business meeting by reading incoming correspondence and announcements. Membership attendance was not up to par, possibly because of the holiday being on the first Tuesday.

PGWA's packet radio station instructional

Twenty-one members and guests attended the meeting at Carper's Valley Golf Club on July 19, 1995. A social period at 12:30 PM was followed by a buffet luncheon at 1:00 PM. President Walter Johnson, WA4HVV, opened the business meeting at 1:34 PM. George Ritter, W4UGX, acted as Secretary in the absence of Perry Crabill, W3HQX.

Items passed around for everyone to see included a fax message from member Guy Black,

Continued next page

W4PSJ, from the Hotel Metropol in Moscow, Russia; also a fax from Ed Rich, K3THD, explaining his inability to be present, along with color photos of the SVARC handling messages during the recent Loudoun Mile Rice in Winchester.

Five-dollar discount coupons from EEB in Vienna, Virginia, were passed out to those interested. These are valid until October 31, 19~5.

Perry Crabill, W3HQX, came home from the hospital the day before the meeting; he had been in for surgery to correction a double hernia.

On the same day Ed Rich, K3THD, was in the hospital as an outpatient to determine the cause of severe abdominal pain. Ed had been scheduled to present a program about stained glass at the meeting.

Earl Sharar, KA4HHU, a member of SVARC who sometimes attended QCWA as a guest, is now in a nursing home in Rockville, Maryland, recovering from complications after cardiac bypass surgery.

Frank Spurr, also an SVARC member and QCWA guest, is at home after several hospitalizations.

It was announced that the Shenandoah Valley ARC will hold its annual hamfest on August 6 at the Clarke County Ruritan fairgrounds near Berryville, Virginia.

From 2:00 to 3:00 PM a replacement program titled "The Fine Art of DFing" was presented by Irvin Barb, KD4BHV, President of the SVARC, and Rick Choy, N3HXT, SVARC Vice-President. Home-built equipment, along with loop and bow-tie antennas were demonstrated and explained.

The next meeting will be on September 20; subject to be announced.

Perry Crabill, W3HQX - Secretary/Treasurer



Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: First and Third Friday of every month at 7:30 p.m. SVARC Club House 2921 Grace Street, Winchester, Virginia
Repeater: 146.22 In/ 146.82 Out
Net: Shenandoah Valley Emergency Net (SVEN) 7:15 daily on 146.22/146.82 Repeater
Mailing: P.O. Box 139 Winchester, 22604
President: Irv Barb KD4BHV (703) 955-1745
Info: George Ritter W4UGX (703) 662-0157

Another August has passed here in the beautiful Northern Shenandoah Valley. Before long the hustle of getting our young ones off to school will again be part of our daily routines.

Club President Irvin Barb (KD4BHV) and Training Coordinator Guy Black (W4PSJ) conducted an orientation/demo on ham radio for the children at Camp Super Kid which is a day camp for asthmatic children. Camp Super Kid was sponsored by the Winchester Medical Center and held at Jim Barnett park. On August 6, we held our 45th Annual Hamfest and Computer Show. It was a fun day for all.

On August 19-20, the SVARC again provided communications support for the Winchester-Frederick County Triathlon. The SVARC has provided communications support for this race ever since its beginning. Sadly, this is the last year for the race due to increasing traffic problems there.

As the weather begins to cool (we hope...) September promises to be a busy month for us. Listed below are activity dates for September:

September 9 — Club picnic at the SVARC Clubhouse. There will be a swap fest beginning at Noon and various demonstrations will be held throughout the afternoon. Dinner will be served at approximately 5:00 p.m. The Club will provide

hamburgers and hot dogs. Members are asked to bring a covered dish.

September 16-17 — The Shenandoah Apple Harvest Festival Weekend in the Park. SVARC Members will be sending free messages for guests as an introduction to ham radio.

September 30 — SVARC members will be providing communications support for the American Diabetes Association annual WalktoberFest.

October 20-22 — SVARC members will be providing communications support and coordination for the Battle of Cedar Creek Re-enactment. This event depicts the Battle of Cedar Creek from the Civil War.

October 28 — SVARC members will be providing communications support for the Old Dominion Endurance Ride in Fort Valley, Virginia. This 100 mile event presents unique challenges for communications support!

As of our last August meeting, the SVARC is 125 members strong. In August we welcomed new members Les Kerper (WB4D), Kathy Tanner (KE4SRA), and Adam Lassiter. A special "cheer" goes out to 9 year old Molly Cashell, who acted as net control for the first time in mid-August. Keep up the good work Molly!

Well, that's it for September. 73 'til October de KE4QJT /Laura Stewart.

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Sterling Park Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: 8:00 P.M. - Third Monday of the month except July and August at Sterling Community Center Annex, Church Rd. (Rt. 625) near Route 28, Sterling, VA.

Mailing: Call Box 599, Sterling, VA 20167.

Information: Mike Weisel KR4TF (Pres.)
450-6921, W. T. "Red" Free, W3FTG (PIO)
709-0896.

Congrats to Mike, KR4TF for assuming the presidency of SPARC for 1995-96! The other officers remain the same—Dick W4LMJ, VP; Evan KM4SK, Secretary and Newsletter Editor; Ray KD4RSL, Treasurer. And the big news is that yours truly convinced Forrest N4UTY to get a "real" job after two fine years as president of SPARC. So, look out for news about the codeless Tech and Novice class to be offered under Forrest's direction this fall.

Plans are to get it all done in time for a VE session and a trip to the favorite ham store for Christmas! Contact Forrest at 430-4149 to reserve a spot in the class. First 15 get in for sure...and the ARRL video series will provide the basic schooling, supplemented by practice and practical exhibits by a cast of thousands from the club members.

By now the August Pizza Party "informal" club meeting is history. But the first regular club meeting is coming up on Monday, 18 September, at the 8 p.m. time at the regular location above. The first is usually an open house, and we hope to have Forrest announce the details of the class at that time. Anyone who would like to help out with a session, call Forrest to volunteer.

Field Day was both a success and a frustration by all accounts. Score was down, but attendance and participation was good. W4RW managed

Continued next page

3,315 in class 2A Battery QRP. There were 12 participants overall. KD4RSL gave a good account for the Novice/Tech bonus position, and there were 8 different bonus point categories earned. Too bad the sunspots didn't cooperate. Better luck next year...

The 1996 Virginia QSO Party will have a new chairman, actually, co-chairmen! Bill KS4II and Ed K4GEL have volunteered to take on this very important and visible club activity. Good luck from one who has done it for the past 3-plus years. It is fun AND hard work, but as my dad once said, if it was easy it wouldn't be fun!

Fall contest season is coming, and with winter not too far behind (written when the temp outside was 90 degrees!) you had better get your antenna work done! See you at Gaithersburg for the FARFEST!

de Red W3FTG SK



The Middle Atlantic FM and Repeater Council, Inc.

Meetings: Coordinating Committee (CC) normally meets the last Monday of each month, 19:30, in the OEP conference room of the Prince George's County Emergency Operations Center off Central Avenue. Talk-in on 146.76 or 147.54 simplex.

Address: P.O. Box 1022, Savage, Md. 20763-1022 for all correspondence.

Sorry I missed the deadline for the August issue. Here is the August and September T-MARC news.

The annual Meeting and election of officers for next year is tentatively scheduled for this October or November. Nominations for new officers are being sought. If anyone would like to serve on the Board, or nominate someone else, it's time to start thinking about it. T-MARC needs good, dedicated help.

A package was sent to all area repeater sponsors in June which contained the new T-MARC Fact Book and all the newly revised forms, including a membership application/renewal form. If you haven't received yours, we may not have a currently valid mailing address in our records. If you need a copy, drop a note to the P.O. box listed above.

Back in May we stated that an alternate frequency pair was being sought for KK3L's proposed new repeater on Big Savage Mountain in western Maryland. After discussions with the western Pa. coordinator, we found that 147.24 looks good, so coordination was issued to Kasey. New coordinations for proposed new repeaters have been issued on 146.64 to the Frederick ARC at Frederick, Md.; K4CHE on 147.300 near Dover, Del.; and 224.480 and 449.075 to KB3AVZ east of Baltimore. The BRATS' 440 MHz repeater was re-coordinated from its old frequency to 448.325 in Baltimore. At the request of the sponsor, the Glen Burnie UHF Repeater Group's coordination on 442.500 in Bowie was canceled, and the frequency was then coordinated to the Bowie A.R. Fraternity. We previously had canceled N4QFW's 919.00 coordination at Waldorf, Md., at his request. N4QFW requested that the coordination be reinstated, which it has been. Several new UHF links were coordinated for the Calvert ARA's 146.985 repeater in Calvert County. The committee reviewed several proposed new SERA coordinations in West Virginia on 6 and 2 Meters and 440 MHz. All appear to be compatible with repeaters in our area. Finally, the ARPSC's 146.625 repeater coordination was amended to require coded access on its input in order to coexist with their neighbors.

The next question about coordination is "How or why can a coordination be canceled?" There are 2 primary reasons for cancellation of a coordination. First, if a proposed new repeater never gets on the air, or if an existing repeater goes off the air, the coordination is subject to cancellation after a limited period of time. Second, if any of the primary parameters which affect a repeater's coverage area are changed by the

sponsor, the coordination can be voided. For example, if it gets moved to a different location, or if the antenna height or transmitter power are changed, these changes would affect the coverage area, possibly creating new interference problems for the repeater's neighbors.

Some coordinators require sponsors to file periodic updates in order to retain their coordinations - if an up-date is not received, the coordination may be canceled.

Continuing with the various band plans for the VHF and UHF bands, here is the band plan for the 6 Meter, 50 - 54 MHz Band Plan:

50.00 -	50.10	CW
50.10 -	50.60	CW, SSB, AM, Beacons
50.61 -	50.79	Digital
50.80 -	51.00	Radio-controlled models (Newer RC segment - NO voice or digital operation)
51.00 -	51.10	Pacific DX Window
51.61 -	51.79	Digital (can be paired with 50.61 - 50.79)
52.01 -	52.49	Repeater inputs
52.50 -	52.60	Simplex
52.525		National simplex calling frequency
52.61 -	52.99	Repeater inputs
53.01 -	53.99	Repeater outputs
53.00 -	53.09	Radio-controlled models (Older plan using wide-band rcvrs)
53.30		Used in emergency areas for RACES communications with military stations on matters requiring coordination (See Section 97.407(b)(3))

(20 kHz-spaced channels beginning at 52.01, 1 MHz repeater input/output spacing)

NOTE: The 6-Meter band plan is in the process of being re-examined. Therefore, the plan shown above may be revised in the future.

73, Gary, W3DTN, T-MARC PIO



Voice of America Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: 2nd Friday at noon in Room 7139B, Wilbur J. Cohen Building, 330 Independence Ave SW., Washington, DC.

Repeater: W3DOS/K3VOA (144.59 MHz Input, 145.19 MHz Output).

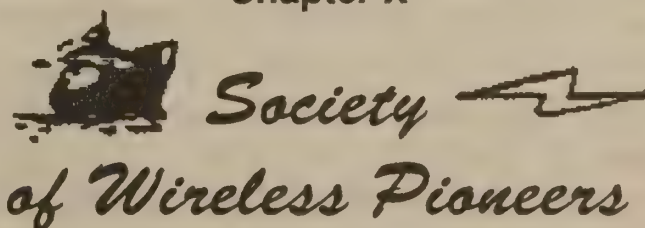
Net: Arnerican Foreign Service Net meets
Sundays: 1500 to 1530 UTC on 14316 KHz;
1530 to 1600 UTC on 21416 KHz; 1600 to
1630 UTC on 28416 KHz.

The Voice of America Amateur Radio Club (K3VOA) held its regular monthly meeting at VOA Headquarters in Southwest Washington on Thursday, 6 July 1995. The following attended:

E. Allen Brown, WA3FYZ/ZF2AB, President
Hubert B. Katz, KB3TB, Vice President & Trustee
Stephen W. Bratcher, WE5X, Secretary
Dexter A. Anderson, W4KM, Treasurer
Gary R. Shirk, KE1AT/CN8YY/SVØJF
John O. Wood, WA5IPQ.

The club decided to change the meeting "formula" to the second Friday of the month at 12:00 noon, local time, effective in August. Anyone interested in attending should arrange admission into the building by telephoning Al Brown at (202) 619- 2020, Steve Bratcher at (202) 619-1763, or Dex Anderson at (202) 619-2597.

Chapter X



THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION
OF PROFESSIONAL RADIO TELEGRAPHERS

**For Information Call
(703) 536-9537**



Woodbridge Wireless, Inc.

Meetings: Second Tuesday of each month at Springwoods and Chaucer, Lake Ridge, VA.
Net: Monday nights at 2000 on 147.24 with 224.78 link repeater on 147.24 MHz, 144.99 MHz simplex PL-100 repeater 444.90 MHz, repeater 224.780 MHz, packet lan on 145.07.
Mailing: PO Box 112, Woodbridge, VA 22194
Information: Jim Stearns, KC4ZHQ (703) 670-3480.

June VHF/UHF Contest

It was a dark and stormy night... Actually, it was also dark and stormy during the day for the Woodbridge Wireless Flagpole Knob Contest Group, W4IY, competing in the recent June VHF Contest under the most challenging weather conditions in recent memory.

But that did not stop this fearless and intrepid group from posting its highest all-time score of 360K, besting their previous high score set in 1993 of 311K. W4IY made 1133 QSOs in 247 grids, with an average Q-rate of 34 QSO/hr. W4IY competed in the UNLIMITED MULTI-OP category, operating on 6m, 2m, 220 MHz, 432 MHz, 903 MHz, and 1296 MHz, using SSB, CW and FM modes. The contest ran from 1800Z Saturday, June 10th, until 0300Z Monday, June 12th. Advance preparations began early in the year, with Jackie, WB4NFS, sending information packages to the team members and holding on-the-air meetings after the WWI Monday Night net. Some of the W4IY team began arriving on Thursday, climbing the 4300 feet to Flagpole Knob, staking claim to this picturesque site in the George Washington National Forest.

The WWI Emergency Communications Vehicle made the climb on Friday, bringing tower sections, yagi antennas, and generators needed for

the contest. With the weather cooperating, by Friday evening, Flagpole Knob assumed the appearance of serious VHF/UHF radio operations. By contest start, all six operating positions were manned and ready. At 1800Z, the first hour began with a great 140 QSO/hr rate, and prospects appeared promising for the W4IY team. Jack's, K4HWG, new (extremely long antenna), a 34 element, 100 ft long monster yagi cooked, singeing grass and earphones all the way to Boston. Rumor had it that the dead deer found just down the road from the yagi had got too close to it when KJ4VG, Ed was operating 2 meters. But by early evening, with clouds darkening in the west, W4IY knew it was going to get interesting. Enduring driving rain, pea-sized hail, 40+ mph winds, and under threatening lightning-filled skies W4IY worried less about Q-rates and more about survival. Six meter ops WB4NFS and KO4FM reported over the computer net that their tent was taking on water and sinking. But the storm passed, and the sky cleared enough to press on into the night.

First light broke over Flagpole Knob, revealing a site one might expect to see in Bosnia. Several tents had been blown down, lawn chairs tossed about and debris lying everywhere. But the six towers remained vertical, and the generators were still humming, and Jim, KA4CKI, chef extraordinaire for W4IY was busily scrambling eggs and frying sausage. W4IY was still on the air under clearing skies. By mid-day Sunday, the skies once again darkened, with strong wind and rains and lightning close enough to shut down operations at W4IY for almost an hour, and sending everyone scurrying for refuge in the bus. But Sunday supper, Jim's excellent spaghetti, was enjoyed under clearing skies. Fed and 807s at the ready, W4IY returned to the air for the final hours of the 33 hour marathon. When the smoke cleared at 2300L (0300Z), W4IY had turned in its best effort to-date. Monday morning take-down of the towers and stations could only be described with one word (just ask those who remained). Under a cold rain and gusting winds, the remaining proud and few dropped towers, rolled feed lines, humped

Continued on page 60

G^{AND} G ELECTRONICS

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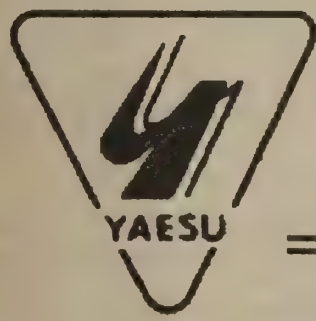
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Estate sales for Widows assistance handled by a FAR club will be published without cost.

Your full name and address must be provided with each ad but need not be published. No ads will be accepted over the telephone and all ads must be prepaid. Ads that will be running for longer than 1 month must be accompanied by a letter stating the length that the ad is to be run. Since no effort is made to investigate advertisers, no warranty can be implied. Send all commercial and non-commercial advertising and Shack Sales to:

John Queen, Auto-Call Editor
755 Woodland Way, Owings, MD 20736
(301) 855-0198

Copy **MUST** be received by the 1st day of the month prior to the month of publication.

WANTED: Home theater HiFi receiver wanted (has several VCR and audio inputs/outputs); high audio wattage output rating not necessary. (703) 370-1880; (703) 370-9049 fax. Alexandria. [10/95]

FOR SALE: 2M Down East Microwave Transverter w/brick \$200.00, 432 DEM transverter w/brick \$200.00, 2 meter and 432 DEM preamps, \$50.00 each, AN/URT 32 Linear amps for 2 meter and 432 \$120.00 ea., 40-50 ft of 4XL flex coax best offer. Rutland 25 element 432 Yagi \$100.00, Coaxial relay high isolation CX520D \$50.00, Motorola Mocom 70 all accessories 60 watt mobile FM \$150.00, H-T power amp for mobile 2 watts in 25 watts out \$30.00. Fred, KC4MOP, Oxon Hill, MD, (301) 567-2012. [09/95]

FOR SALE: Complete Kenwood HF station: TS-830S SSB transceiver, VFO-230, SP-230 speaker, AT-230 antenna tuner, MC-50 microphone. Plus, Mosley Classic-33 Tri-band antenna, antenna rotor, 40 foot tower. First offer over \$1000.00. Write to: WA3WAN, P.O. Box 309, Stevensville, MD 21666. [10/95]

WANTED for museum: Apple-1 and other pre-1980 microcomputers, also early microcomputer journals, newsletters and advertising literature. (703) 231-6478 or (703) 763-2321. [11/95]

FOR SALE: Icom IC-735 HF transceiver and power supply. Advanced Electronics Applications AT-300 antenna tuner. Drake R-8 communications receiver. Millen transistor grip dip oscillator. Heathkit digital IC tester model IT-7400. Heathkit lin/log sweep generator model IG-127. Autek Research QF-1A SSB/CW/AM audio filter. Super Scaf audio filter high pass/low pass. Datong multi-mode audio filter model FL-2. 3-4 Mhz Wobbulator kit, not assembled. Ray Zettler, W3GY. USSAH 766 Scott 6014, 3700 N Capitol ST. NW, Washington, DC., 20317. (202) 882-4079. [09/95]

HELP WANTED: Old Ham with arthritis needs help of agile, young ham to help tune an R7 vertical that has been up about two years. Will negotiate liberal pay for time involved. Call Dave, KE4CYY, at (703) 525-1563 in Arlington, VA. [09/95]

WANTED: Crank up tower mounted on trailer.
KK4WW (703) 231-6478. [10/95]

WANTED: Information on British WWII aircraft radios TR 1133, TR 1134, TR 9D ARI 5000, and ARI 5025. Need any installation information that may assist restoration of 1942 Hawker Hurricane II being performed at the National Air & Space Museum. Frank Garove, W3QLT, 9808 Hickoryhurst Dr., Baltimore, MD. 21236. [09/95]

FOR SALE: 1995 Gap Titan vertical antenna. 10 thru 80 meters. In original carton and never used. Moving to apartment. Cost \$300.00. Yours for \$145.00. Call Webster in Annapolis at (410) 269-6764 or (410) 263-3579. [09/95]



Reminder - all submissions for

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New Shack Sales rates Effective with the October 1995 issue of *Auto Call*

Effective with the October 1995 issue, Shack Sales rates for subscribers will be 5 cents per word, with a minimum ad cost of \$2.00. Non-subscriber rates will remain at 17 cents per word.

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The **AMATEUR RADIO NEWS SERVICE** is an organization of publishers and editors of Amateur Radio newsletters and members engaged in public relations. Its purpose is to assist editors in any way possible. For information, write to Lee Knirko, W9MOL, Amateur Radio News Service, 833 Park Plaine, Parke Ridge, IL 60067.

[SWP]

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[596]

Woodbridge Wireless, from page 60

generators into vehicles, dis-assembled antennas, and generally cussed and complained quite a bit. By noon, the knob once again returned to Nature, W4IY headed down the mountain to return again in September.

Thanks again to the techno-maintenance weenies Stu, WA0DYJ and Jack, K4HWG, and our 5-star chef Jim, KA4CKI. The FNGs did a great job on and off the air, including Tom and Jerry (no not the cartoon characters but N1TXI and KB7RLA), Jim WD4AIR, Loyd K8EI, and Curl, W2WCH now holding the record for oldest mountain man at 74. W4IY regulars returning once again were W4IY, AC4XT, K4HWG, KA4CKI, KA4RRU, KD4NNI, KD4VSK, KJ4VG, KO4FM, WA0DYJ, WB4NFS, WB4RMJ, and WD4KXB. Having dried off, everyone is looking forward to September. Please join us on Flagpole Knob...

73s Cliff, KO4FM

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Estate of W2BUU FOR SALE

Drake TR-4 Transcvr w/spkr & P.S.
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Drake R-4C Receiver
Drake MS- Speaker
Drake MN-2000 Antenna Tuner
Drake RV-4 Remote VFO
Turner D-104 Microphone
Dentron 160-10 L Linear Amp.
SBE-144 Transceiver
Swan FM-2A 2 mtr xcvr
Miscellaneous parts, tubes & test eqmt.

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Survivor's Assistance Program

The Foundation's Survivor's Assistance Program has been in operation for many years and has accomplished a great deal for the families of our Silent Keys. The program offers to help widows (and other family members) evaluate and dispose of radio equipment in an Amateur's estate. Listings of Estate Sales are carried in the Shack Sales of Auto-Call magazine free of charge, and major items may be offered for sale at local hamfests, etc. No fee or commission is charged the families.

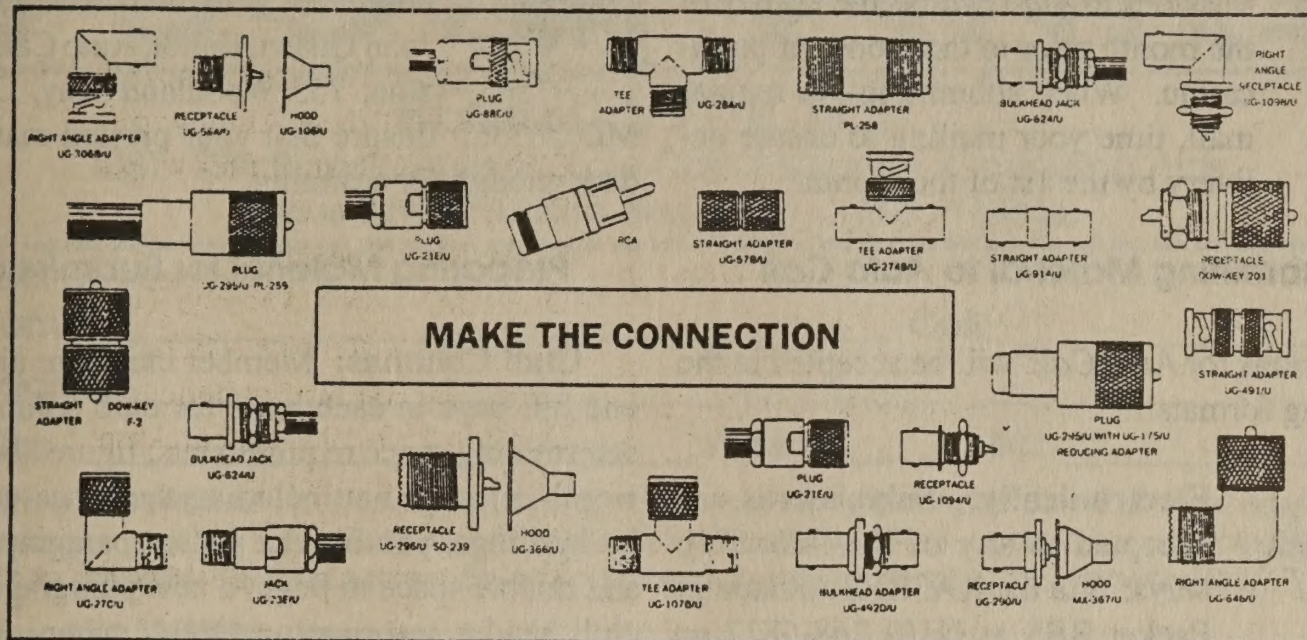
One other option that should be considered is donating equipment to a club taking a tax write-off for the charitable contribution. The Survivor's Assistance Program can help you find a club that will make good use of the equipment. Some commercial operations are also willing to purchase the complete list of equipment and clear everything out at once. This may be the quickest solution in disposing of an estate.

Every ham is encouraged to maintain a list of his/her radio equipment, with realistic evaluations, and instructions on the disposition of any specific items you would like to have go to a special person or organization. Keep your family advised of your wishes.

For more information about the Survivor's Assistance Program contact any local Foundation member club or call Tony Young/WA3YLO at (301) 262-1917.

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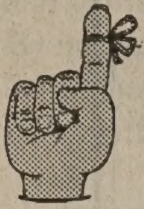
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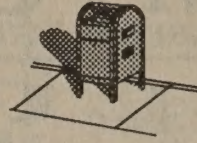
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Deadline: The deadline for ALL submissions to *Auto Call* is the 1st day of the month prior to the month of publication. When submitting via regular mail, time your mailing to ensure delivery by the 1st of the month.



Regular Mail: Mail typewritten or computer generated hard copy to: John Queen, Editor, Auto Call Magazine, 755 Woodland Way, Owings, MD 20736. Ensure that your printed material is dark enough for scanning.

Submitting Material to *Auto Call*

Submissions for *Auto Call* will be accepted in the following formats:



Electronically: Submissions are accepted in any of the following ways: Via the KA3RFE Annapolis Packet BBS at (410) 268-6817 or via packet on 145.69 or 147.57, E-mail message or upload file to KAØSEY. Or via any of the major on line services directly or over the Internet. Use the applicable format exactly as follows:

America On Line - JohnQueen

AppleLink - johnqueen@aol.com@internet#

BitNet - johnqueen@aol.com@cunyvm

CompuServe - INTERNET:johnqueen@aol.com

Connect - johnqueen@aol.com

Delphi - internet"johnqueen@aol.com"

FidoNet - To johnqueen@aol.com<CR><CR>

GEnie - johnqueen@aol.com@inet#

MCI Mail - mbx: johnqueen@aol.com

Prodigy - johnqueen@aol.com



Computer Disk: Submissions are accepted on 3.5" or 5.25" computer disk, in either Macintosh or MS-DOS format, using Word, WordPerfect, or standard ASCII text files. Write your name, telephone number, and club name on the disk. Submit graphic files (club logos, etc) in an EPS or TIFF format. Please verify the readability of your computer files before sending. If you want your computer disk returned immediately, include a SASE envelope with .32 postage. Otherwise, disks will be returned only in person at FAR meetings.

Preparing Material for Submission

Club Columns: Member clubs are allocated one full page in each issue for club columns. In determining space requirements, figure about 700 words per page not including the space taken up by headings, photos, etc. Indent paragraphs .25" and double space to begin a new paragraph. Send club header information ONLY when different from what was published from previous month.

Hamfests/Events: Member clubs are allocated one full page per year to promote one club sponsored hamfest, convention, or special event. Submit clean black & white camera ready copy only by mail. Master copy should be in black ink on white paper and should be in proper page ratio, (Copy space is 7" wide by 9" high). Copy can be reduced or enlarged as necessary. Electronic submissions of Hamfest ads will not be accepted.

Photographs: The editor will select the best photograph submitted for the cover each month. Photographs should depict club members, club stations, or amateur radio related events that are current and noteworthy. Clubs may also submit photographs for inclusion with their club column. Photographs will be used in columns when space permits. Either B&W or color photos can be used. For each photograph submitted, write your name, phone number, and club name, along with a description of the photograph on a piece of paper, and tape it on the back of the photograph. Do not write on the back of your photo. If you want your photos returned immediately, include a SASE envelope with sufficient postage. Otherwise, photos will be returned only in person at FAR meetings.



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Area Club Meetings - September 1995

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 Mark your calendar! F.A.R.FEST '95 Sunday, Sept 10th - Gaithersburg, MD					1 Mobileers Shenandoah	2 Green Mtn.
3	4 DOSARC	5 Antietam PG Wireless	6 Baltimore Montgomery	7 Anne Arundel	8 VOA Vienna So. Maryland	9 North Point
10 FAR*FEST Metro Comm	11 Carroll Co.	12 Fauquier Frederick Woodbridge	13	14 MADRAS Mid-Atlantic Mt. Vernon	15 Shenandoah	16 Capital City
17	18 OVHA	19 Antietam Arlington	20 Goddard QCWA, BARC HEMARC Montgomery	21 Anne Arundel	22 Central MD Vienna	23 VA Beach Hamfest
24 AMSAT VA Beach Hamfest	25 T-MARC Green Mtn.	26 Columbia	27 Moose Laurel Carroll Co.	28 MADRAS St. Mary's	29	30



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